

# Otake Asia

May 2014  
Php 95

-cosplay interview:  
zhykrys & mikki nyan-

# WE ARE HERE

KAWAII ISSUE ! KAWAII ISSUE ! KAWAII ISSUE ! KAWAII ISSUE ! KAWAII ISSUE !

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MANIKA MANILA, FLOWER CROWN TUTORIAL by KAWAII PH,  
MAKANSHOKU, JUSTINE CHANTELE ABAD (Dorotee Sweetlips),  
KYARY PAMYU PAMYU AND CYRIL LUMBOY (Doll Delight)

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## Otaku Asia: Table of Contents

2 Editorial  
4 Inbox  
8 News

10 Bento Box: Cute Restaurants in the metro

Otafan: Cyril Lumboy of Doll Delight page 12

14 Hooked Book: Moe Manifesto

16 Lokal'taku: Manika Manila

22 Otaku Life Hacks: How to make a Flower Crown by KawaiiPH

Cosplayer: World Cosplay's Zhykrys and Mikki Nyan page 26

32 Otaku Life Hacks: Elegance in Frills, A Lolita Guide

34 Art of Otaku: Drawing the hands and eyes by Fruitloop-chan

Lokal'taku: Justine Chantelle Abad of Dorotee Sweetlips page 36

38 Character Bio: Makanshoku

40 Otaku Life Hacks: Make-up tutorial by Tiffany Sy

42 J-idol: Kyary Pamyu Pamyu

46 Hooked Book: Everyday Bento

48 Cover Feature: Mekaku City Actors

54 Hot Anime: Noragami Kanojo ga Flag wo Oraretara

58 Manga: Terra Formars  
Koe no Katachi  
Apocalypse no Toride  
Kara no Kyokai  
Horomiya

36 Cover Feature: Saki Zenkokuhen

70 Reviews: Hitsuji no Chaika  
Engaged to the Unidentified  
Sekai Sefuku  
Haikyuu!  
Selector Infected WIXOSS  
Fairy Tail 2014

76 Hot Anime: Date A Live II

78 Request: Ginban Kaleidoscope  
La Corda d'Oro Blue Sky

80 Gamer's Arena: Visual Novel Overview  
Super Smash Bros.  
Twitch Plays Pokemon  
Infinite Crisis

86 O-kun Tales

88 # Throwback: Lucky Star

+ Enter message







Happy 1 year Otafans! \*sparkles\*. For this month, we present the Kawaii & Moe issue~. We will be featuring Mekaku City Actors, a new anime that is based on the all known vocaloid for our cover feature. We will be also featuring Cyril Lumboy, a California based Lolita sensation. This issue also offers tutorials on making flower crowns, presented by Kawaii.ph and we also get to meet the people behind the coolest dolls which is the Manika Manila. Start flipping the pages now to start the kawaii and moe feels~

-GM Yani

## CONTRIBUTORS QUESTION

If your 1 wish can be granted. what would it be?

My Wish would be to gain lots of money! Okay, before anyone judges me, I'd like to tell you I'm a very generous person, and my friends and family would surely be blessed too, if this wish comes true, ever. I'd be willing to give without anything in return. :))

-Lizzi

I wish that my long time manga crush would come to life.

-James

For my partner to be able to visit the Philippines soon. :)

-Ann

I want to own a time machine so that I can go back in time to make sure I can win the lotto >:D kidding or maybe I just want to master various languages :3

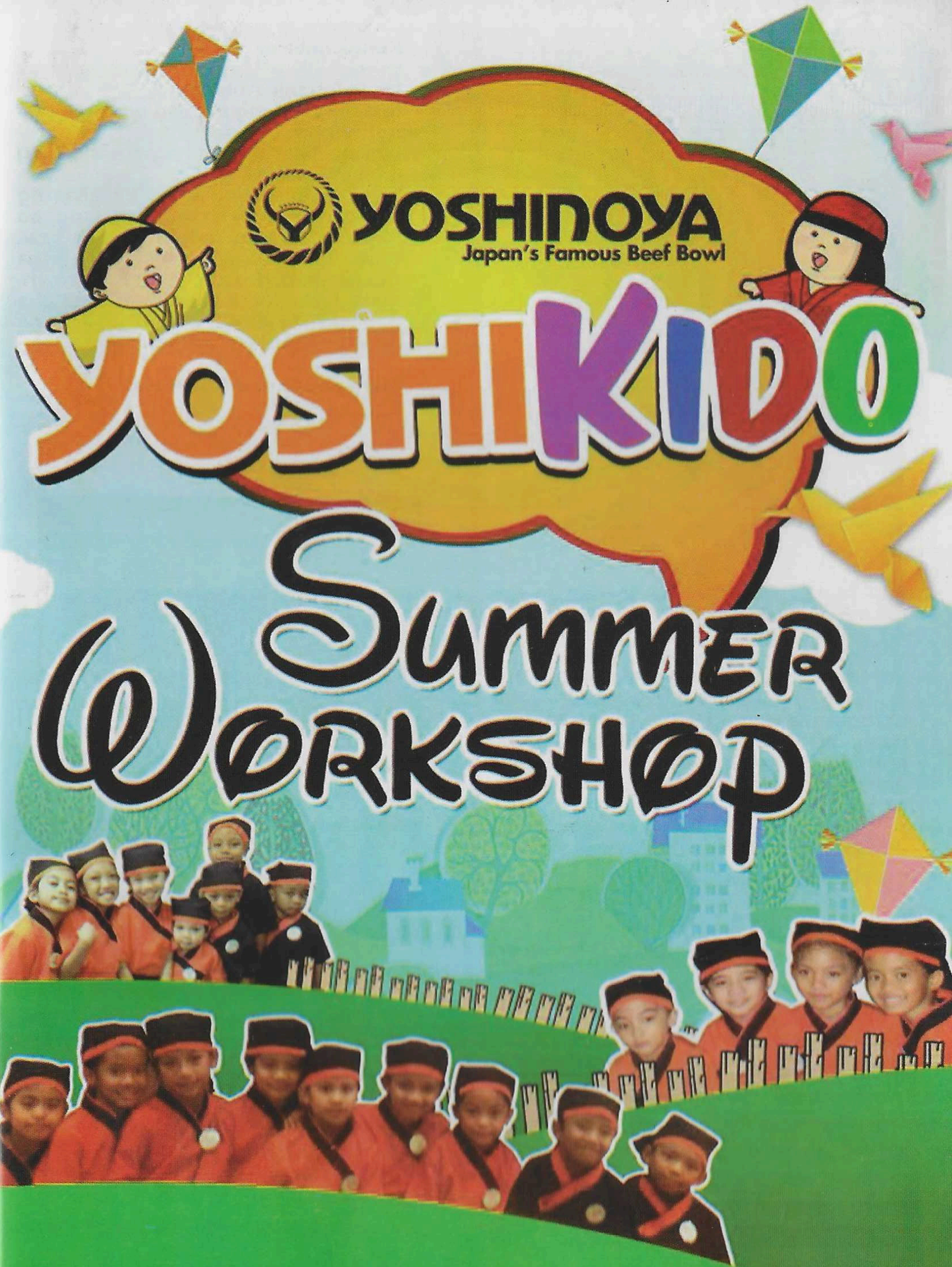
-Pam

A wish to make wishes come true.... =A=;;a XD

-Ren

I wish for the ability to "quicksave" in life so I can quickly go back and change things.

-Robert



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# INBOX



Hi Otaku Asia! I want to share my artwork here and be featured in your ozzum mag someday. Hi to my Mama, Papa, my sisters Maymay and Vae, Neil and to my UPLB friends especially Rennie Boy (lol)! More power to your magazine.

-Kimberly Anne Lamsen



kon ~ otaku asia kabibili ko lng ng mag nyo at nagustohan ko na... pde po bang pa request ng magi review ?? kung ok lng !!

-Marinette Anolled

Konnichiwa minna-san!

I'm Stephanie Abuyan ^\_\_\_\_^  
first time ko lang po mag message dito hohohoho  
lagi po pala akong nag cocollect ng mga magazine niyo ^^  
bakit po pala ang tagal lumabas ng dec 2013? hahaha ngayon lang po lumabas sa mga bookstore xD btw. gusto ko po pala i greet yung mga friends kong otaku si Kei Sayaman, Mark Javier, Cyril Paredes etc. hahaha dami po nila xD so yun lang po wala na akong masabi po . hihihihihhi

More power and God Bless!

^\_\_\_\_^



A drawing I made, the character is from Tetragrammaton Laybrinth. Hope you like it!

-Bryan Cabingan



konnichiwa minna -san !! this is my first time messge in your magazine. its so awesooomeee in your magazine.. i hope this would be featured in your next issue.. god bless.. more power OTAKU !!!

-Angelo Garces



Jeald Jau-jau Jaucian



thank you very much ., more power Otaku Asia

-Von Neo Gozos



Hello again ^^

Thanks for featuring my first fanmail in your February issue Log Horizon is

This season sure has lots of great anime Looking forward to see your reviews with ... No Game No Life, Haikyuu!, Selector Infected Wixoss, Gokukoku no Brynhildr, Akuma no Riddle and Black Bullet

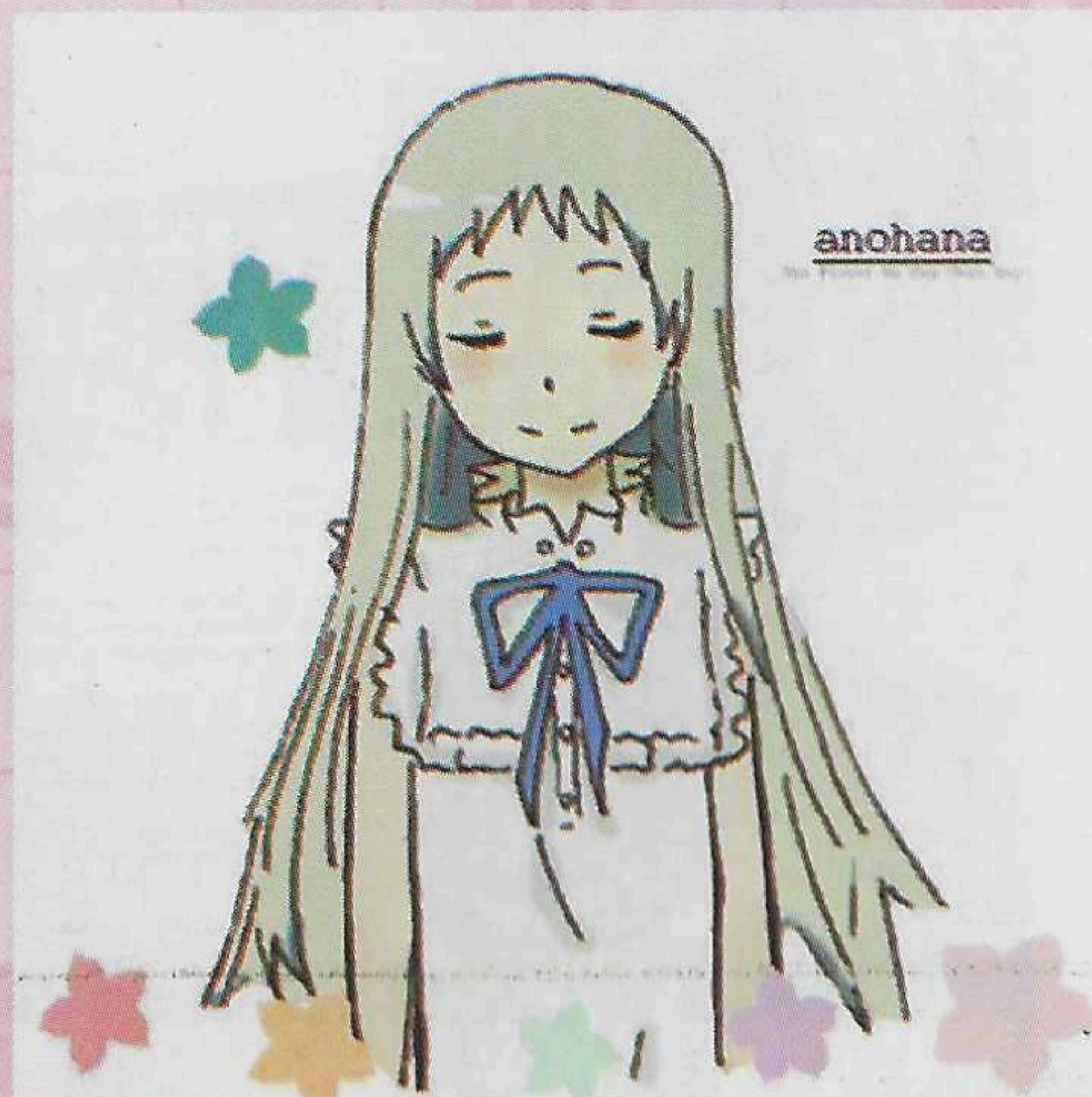
-JAYLockser ^^



can i request if its ok to cover pretty rhythm on your next magazine

-Alexia Nicole Sager





Jeneil Inotantes

Konnichiwa! OA staff!

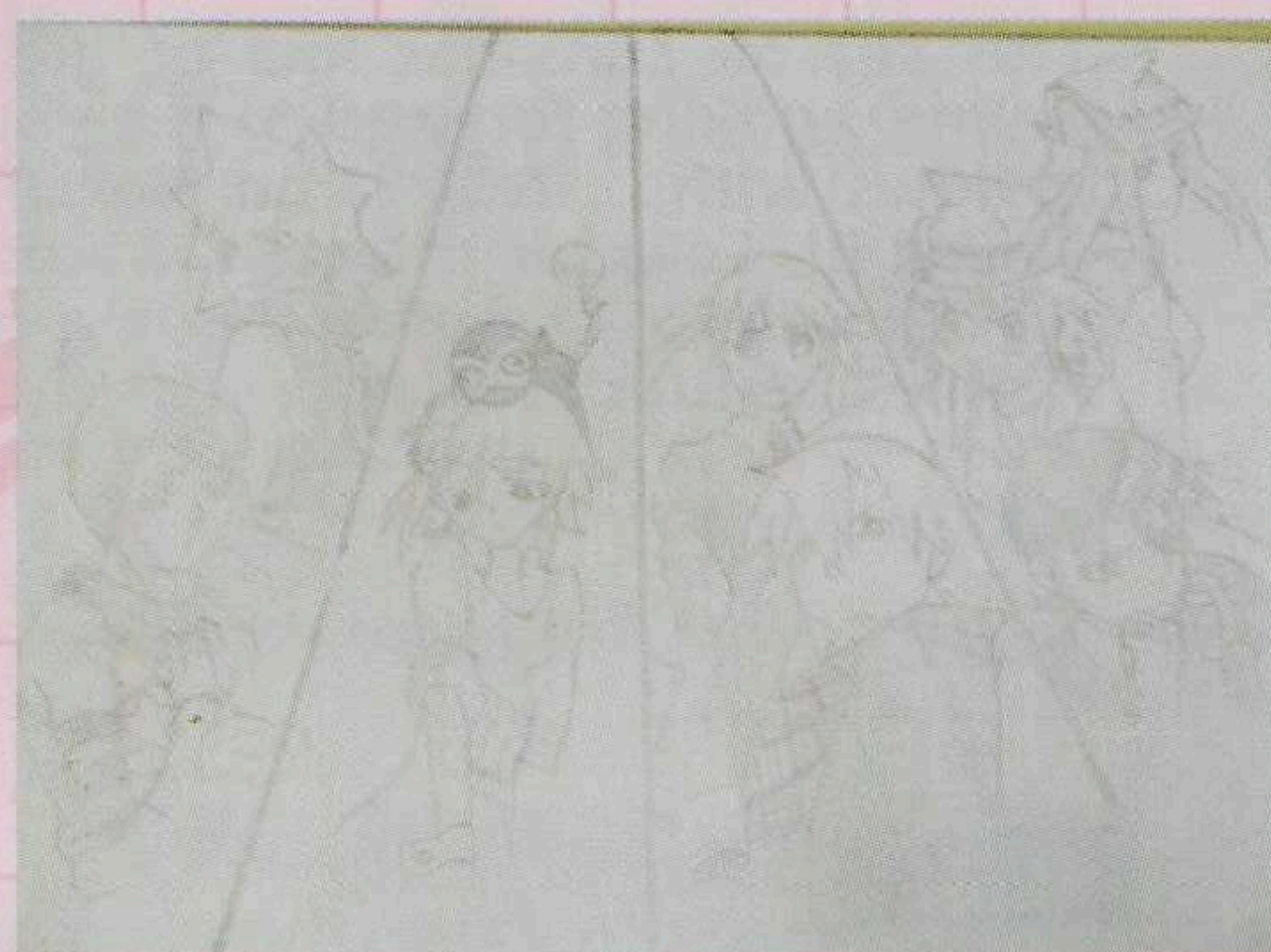
I really like your magazine! > W<) please cover nyo po ung Soul Eater Not! It's one of my fav anime this year~

hehe nacomplete ko po ung first 8 mag nyo xD kala ko ndi ko macocomplete eh~ pero buti nalang may tyaga mag hanap haha xD And thnx to OA magazine I finally watched Log Horizon!

ummm..... binabati ko lang po ung best friends ko sina Trisha & Chelsea. My OTAfriends, Arjealle, Jireh & Collin. and ung TROPANG NAKASHABU!

Keep up the good work! more issues to come!

my fan art of menma TTWTT



sna mafeature niu po please? thank you po haha..perstaym q magsubmit ng fan art \*u\* hoho, sayang isang issue plng nsakin TTOT

- Jen Gasis



Would you please make Love Live! School Idol Project as the next magazine cover?? Onegai?? ^.^

- Janeru Alinsoot

Got Requests? Fanmail to shoutout? Fanart to showoff? We would love to hear from you!

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## Phantasy Star Online 2 opens for CBT

written by: Philip

Started April 10, Phantasy Star Online 2 SEA opened for Close-Beta Testing. The game features a deeper resemblance of the story and gameplay from the first release.

Free to play Phantasy Star Online 2 is a sci-fi online action RPG developed by SEGA and features three races and a wide selection of job classes. The game combines the aspects of a hack and slash and TPS. Dungeons are made even better than the first season with more thrilling rewards.

The game is run on English version and played internationally so expect a lot of players coming from different countries. The game is now online and everyone can experience the CBT.



## Mark your calendars for Kyori Renai Shojo live action on October

The manga series, Kin Kyori Renai Shojo will have a live action on October 11. Naoto Kumazawa, who directed Kimi Ni Todoke will be directing the live-action film adaptation.

Former NEWS group member Tomohisa Yamashita will be the protagonist, Haruka Sakurai, the tsundere and playful teacher of Yuni Kururugi portrayed by Nana Komatsu. Nozumi Kotaki will play Ikuhaba, who is also in love to Yuni, Mizuki Yamamoto will play Kikuko Nanami, Yuni's classmate and a close friend and Asami Mizukawa will play Sakurai's ex-girlfriend Mirei Takizawa.

The story in the manga depicts the love story between Sakurai and Yuni. Sakurai is a popular guy who has a habit of flirting and playing with girls including Yuni through his romantic gestures. Although he uses a lot of harsh words, this is the reason why the girls fall more into him.



## Hunter X Hunter manga will be back on June

After a hiatus for two years since March 2012, Shueisha and Viz media announced that Hunter X Hunter manga will resume in June 2014. More details will be announced on issue 22 and 23 of Weekly Shounen Jump! magazine.

Viz media, who is known to distribute manga in English, will simultaneously run the manga as soon as Togashi comes back and resume the series.

Hunter x Hunter writer and illustrator Yoshihiro Togashi went into hiatus due to health and on some mangaka issues.



## Tree of Savior: the successor of Ragnarok Online



Tree of Savior claimed to be the spiritual successor of the former most popular MMORPG Ragnarok Online. The released official trailer guarantees the expected coming of the new Ragnarok Online-based game.

Also known as Project R1, Tree of Savior is currently in development by Korea's IMC games. It is led by the "father of Ragnarok Online" Kim Hakkyu and ensures that Project R1 would be the next in line to RO.

The game will feature 80 classes and sprite-based character models. The anime-styled design will still applied to the characters. The game adopted many elements from western MMORPG such as World of Warcraft.

Ragnarok Online released in Korea on August 2002 while it became available worldwide since 2003. Various manga adaptations were made, either official or fan made and an anime adaptation Ragnarok the Animation were aired during 2007. The latest remake of the online game, Ragnarok Online 2 features a three dimensional environment and still intact on the original gameplay of its first season.





## BENTO BOX

written by: Philip

# CUTE RESTAURANTS

photos courtesy of their respective owners:  
3.bp.blogspot.com & travelfoodfinds.com



## Made in Candy

**Made in Candy**, which is located at Level 2, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Drive, Makati and at SM City Megamall get the attention of passersby as the candy makers make their sweet candy sticks, candy rolls and other related candy stuffs on the spot!

The cute stuff here is the candy is made with different designs and unique flavours. They also offer personalized designs and accept orders for wedding favors, corporate branding, birthday treats, event candies and festive candies. The candies are not too sweet but the flavour is strong and is easily felt. They have candy foil bags which can contain one flavour or assorted flavours. Our favourite packaging is in their small jars.

Watermelon candy is the biggest selling candy in the store, so be sure to check out **Made in Candy** and try their candies. Then don't forget to brush your teeth.



## Vanilla Cupcake Bakery

**Vanilla Cupcake Bakery** is located at the 2/F Trinoma Mall, Quezon City, TwoParkade, 30th St. corner 7th Ave., Bonifacio Global City in Taguig and in Glorietta. They offer different attractive

cupcakes and dishes. They also offer pastas, lasagna and their signature steak.

The bakery features a life-size dollhouse and it is attractive to costumers especially on girls. Eating on this bakery will make you feel you're a doll enjoying a cute life but in a friendly budget. Even their Cath Kidson utensils are very adorable. The bakery is very colourful and appealing to the eye, as you can describe everything as cute. Try Vanilla Cupcake Bakery and enjoy the "your in a wonderland" atmosphere while enjoying your sweet treats!

## Cupcakes by Sonja

Located in Taguig, Cupcakes by Sonja is a must visit shop to stop your cravings for sweets. Here are some of the cupcakes you will surely enjoy here:

### Vanilla Sunshine

A classic yellow cupcake topped with either signature vanilla buttercream or creamy chocolate frosting would be the answer for your sweet cravings.

### Lemon Drop

A vanilla cupcake smothered in tangy lemon buttercream.

### Peppermint Patty

Looking for a cool cupcake? Peppermint Patty is a valrhona dark chocolate cupcake topped with refreshing peppermint frosting.

### Bunny Hugger Carrot Cupcake

A cute classic carrot cupcake spiced with cinnamon and covered with cream cheese frosting.

They also have their special cupcakes like Cookie Monster, Banana Monkey Cream Pie, Choco Cream Cheese Swirl, Heavenly hazelnut, death by chocolate and more. They also serve cookies, bars, hot and cold drinks.

Be sure to check out Cupcakes by Sonja and treat yourself with these promising cupcakes.



**Tokyo Bubble Tea** is a great Japanese place to have your lunch, light snack meals, dinner or even when you come with your sesame street pajamas to have your midnight snacks. It is a great place to hangout with your friends and family where our ambience encourages fun and laughter from menu, service and comfy place all year round!



## Our Story

Tokyo Bubble Tea restaurant is a Philippine homegrown concept founded and managed by McWilson Group of Restaurants. It all started year 2007 when McWilson Group of Restaurants owners wished to introduce bubble milk tea drinks in Manila, along with Japanese style ambience and food. The name bubble tea is derived from the drink popularized around Asia and we used it as our brand name to represent us that we specialize in brewing premium milk tea served with the best bubbles.

## Our Product

We brew our tea everyday to give you the top-quality, fresh, healthy and all natural Tea drinks served with fun soft-chewy bubbles, Tokyo style. In addition, we only offer good, healthy and freshly-cooked food to make sure you get the best out of your favorite Japanese cuisine.



Due to overwhelming response of our customers, Bubble Tea is planning to expand its business and open more outlets in and outside Metro Manila.

Currently, Bubble Tea has branches in SM Megamall & SM North EDSA-The Block, which started 2007, and in Tomas Morato, Q.C. & Wilson, Greenhills, which started 2010, at The Fort, which started 2011 and now open at Westgate in Alabang, Harborpoint in Subic, Robinsons Place in Bacolod and Marquee Mall in Pampanga.





OTAFAN

# Cyril Lumboy

A Filipino Lolita designer based in California.

Last March, after 3 years abroad, she comes home for a short visit.

Cy invited us to an afternoon get together with her close friends and fans and we got to ask her a few questions.

**At the start of your career, your designs tend to be inspired by goth, punk and kei, but what inspires you now?**

"I am always experimenting around lolita. Now I'm more influenced by the moe, kawaii and girls but I never really lost the punk and kei. It's just that I learned to play around the styles to create my own."

**Your dresses are truly unique. What makes them that way?**

"I guess it's because I use a lot of patterns. I get inspired by patterns I see on the net. Like fabric.com, tumblr and the lolita communities."

**You once said that you can finish a dress as short as 3 days. Is that still the case?**

Yes. If I like or enjoy what I'm doing, I want to finish it as soon as possible, work all day and overnight. However, if I'm still unsure about a dress, it drags me for long and it would probably take me months to finish.

Doll Delight

**We found out that you did a fashion show recently. Was that your first?**

I was invited to a fashion show all the way in Mexico. It was my first show and it went really great

**And how many dresses would you use for a show?**

About ten to twenty dresses. I would usually reuse some of the already made dresses and just add new ones to debut for the finale.

**Do you have more shows coming up?**

My manager is trying to book me in Hyper Japan in London and another event in Australia. I'm looking forward to more shows.

**Speaking of looking forward, where do you see Doll Delight in 5 years?**

It has to be a brand. I want to have a physical shop whether in California or in here in the Philippines or both. I also want to be able to manufacture because right now, I'm the only one doing the designing and the creating.

**That's a handful of work. You said you want a shop in the Philippines, but where will Cyril be?**

California has so much opportunities but I really want to live here in the Philippines so I plan to be able to come back and forth. Probably like stay here for 6 months and then back in California for 6 months. I'd like to see Doll Delight in Makati or The Fort

**I must admit that lolita isn't that very practical unlike your other shop, Dolly Dynamite. What will they expect in Doll Delight as a brand?**

Lolita isn't practical because of the fabric used. So instead of using cotton, I'll use voile and other materials that are light

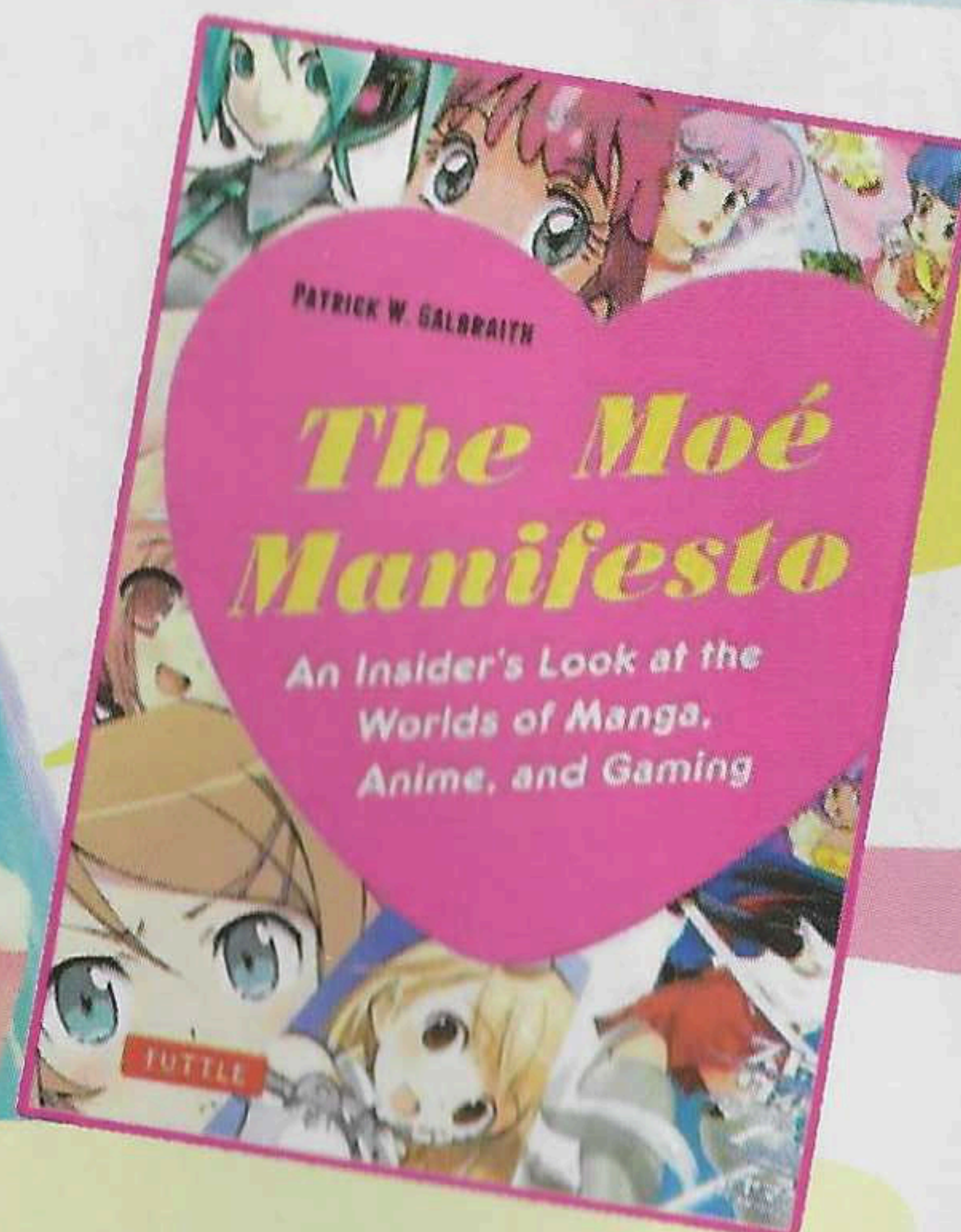
**What advice can you give to your fans?**

"You have to stand up for what you really want. It's going to be tough at the start especially if you're trying to do something different; people are going to be hard on you. You only need to know what you want and stick to it."





## The Moe Manifesto



If you have ever been emotionally connected to a favourite anime character, nurturing them, liking them or even to the point making them your girlfriend or boyfriend, then you are under the moe culture.

## Understanding the Moe culture

Fans tend to be in love for certain fictional characters in manga, television series, games and novels and this is moe. Moe, which is linguistically defined as the noun form of moeru, meaning to burst into bud or to sprout and in contemporary usage, moe means an affectionate response to fictional characters.

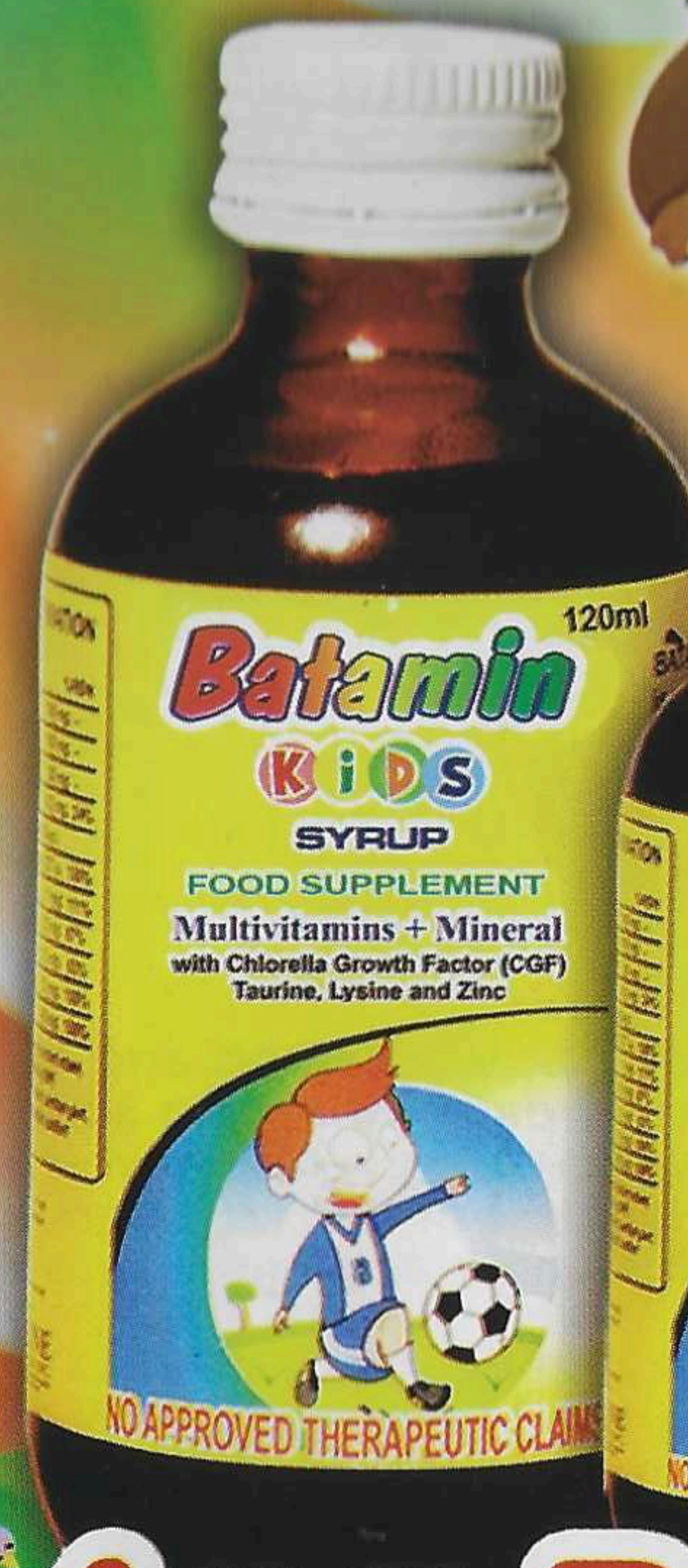
The huge cultural phenomenon behind this Moe-ism is clearly described and explained by Author Patrick Galbraith on his book "The Moe Manifesto" where he described how and when the culture of moe started and his different thoughts on Moe as one of the pop culture that were been observe through years.

The book interviewed twenty-four known figures in the world of Japanese manga and anime and got their insights

about moe. The book also featured the different moe from the early years of anime culture like Astroboy and Princess Knight up to the latest Moe like Mirai Suenaga and Kousaka Kirino. Each moe are classified according to their roles such as moe being related to virtual idols, mechas, magical girls, some characters from role-playing games or visual novels and some characters in a popular manga or anime series.

The book "The Moe Manifesto" is available now in our local bookstores. Grab one and learn on the culture of manga, anime and gaming and understand how and why certain people feel an emotional affection towards your favourite character. You may end up understanding yourself more as an otaku.

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at masiglang pangangatawan



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# ManikaManila



Lovely to look at and fragile to hold. Ball Jointed Dolls or BJD are dolls with ball and socket joints. With smokey eyes and soft lips, these are not your average dolls. The design are said to be realistic with some influences by anime. As you can see, the doll can differ in size and shape. Primarily intended for adults, BJDs can be customized by painting, changing the eyes, wig and clothes.

Here in the Philippines, BJD are also being collected. A community called ManikaManila welcomes collectors and customizers alike.

Otaku Asia got to ask them a few questions:

## When did Manika Manila start and what is their objective?

ManikaManila was founded in 2005 by BJD owners Joey David-Tiempo and Yapi Santiago. The community was first created to fulfill their dreams of seeing sculpts they had always wanted to see. As the community grew, it became a safe haven for BJD owners and enthusiasts to express themselves freely without fear of judgment from those unfamiliar with them. Today, it is a community where anyone who loves BJD's can join, whether they own a doll or not.

## How many are you in your community and how you circulate your works?

There are over 200 registered users in the ManikaManila forum (<http://www.manikamanila.com/forum>), but not all are active. Most are Filipinos who live here, but there's a number of Filipino doll owners living abroad who continue to keep in touch with our local community. Owners post their work on the various sections of the forum, but most of them also post on their personal Facebook, Tumblr, Flickr, DeviantART and Instagram accounts.



## What is the difference of this Asian ball jointed dolls compared to other kinds of dolls?

They're made of polyurethane resin, are fully customizable and are more often than not anatomically correct. They're held together by elastic string, and can hold a wide variety of poses. They come in different sizes—large (50-80cm), medium (30-50cm), and tiny (1-30cm). Several sculpts are available—realistic, anime-like, somewhere in between. There's something for everyone, really.

## What fashion style is popular among the doll owners?

The fashion style is as varied as the preferences of the owners. Some dress their dolls in formal dresses and suits, some in casual street attire, some in lolita or visual kei. No style in particular stands out—it all depends on the owner what they want their dolls to wear.

## Do you meet their doll owner consumers in an event or in private occasions?

ManikaManila organizes several "Official Meets" throughout the year—we start with Valentine's Meet in February, Summer Meet in May, ManikaManila Tiangge in August, Halloween Meet in October, and Christmas Meet in December. These Official Meets are usually themed (ex. Leather and Lace for Valentine's) and have activities (ex. Monito Manika, an exchange gift for dolls during Christmas). Inbetween these bigger meets, owners organize their own "Mini Meets" where they meet up to simply chat and take photos together. These doll meets are open to anyone who wishes to join.

## Your most fruitful event you've organized?

ManikaManila Tiangge 2013 was the biggest event we ever organized. Over 100 people attended, including various merchants and exhibitors. We were even able to get the participation of international doll company DollHeart. Members competed for the grand prize in two contests—Photography Contest and Booth Display Contest. We'll be having this event again this year, on August 23. We're hoping it will be even bigger and better than last year's Tiangge. Please join us then! (<http://www.manikamanila.com/tiangge>)

*ManikaManilaTiangge*  
A BALL-JOINTED DOLL BAZAAR & EXHIBIT

## What is the price range of ball jointed dolls?

Dolls can cost as low as 100USD and as high as over 1000USD. It depends on the company they're from and what size of doll it is. Tinies cost an average of 100-300USD, medium dolls 200-500USD, and large dolls 300-700USD but these are very rough estimates, as some companies sell them for either much lower or higher. Dolls from Japan tend to cost the most, while dolls from China are the cheapest, and dolls from Korea tend to be in the middle price range.

## Can you give an estimate amount on how much is needed to start collecting dolls?

It really depends on the kind of doll you want, but don't expect it to get any lower than 100-200USD (4-8k php) for a doll. Just keep in mind that this hobby is NOT CHEAP. After you buy the doll you'll want to customize it, and that means more spending.

We at ManikaManila would be happy to help you find a doll suited to your taste and budget.

Add us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/manikamanila>) or join us on the forum (<http://www.manikamanila.com/forum>).

Let's share our love for BJD's together!



# Owner Profiles

**name:** Nix De Pano  
**age:** 23

**bjd name/s & bjd brand/sculpt:**

Rose (Dream of Doll Luke),  
Bell (Crobidoll Lance),  
Starr (IOS Mezz),  
Diva (Iplehouse Luna),  
Vice (Dollclans Benkel),  
Knox (Esthy Peroth)

**a short testimonial:** This hobby changed my life. It really fuels my creativity—art, photography, writing, I even learned how to sew. I also met tons of awesome people, a lot of which became some of my closest friends.

**name:** Kass Yboa  
**age:** 24

**bjd name/s & brand/sculpt:**

young Blair (Fairylad Minifree Miyu),  
adult Blair (LUTS Delf Succubus Clary),  
Rowan (Fairylad Feeple60 Rona),  
Miette (Latidoll Yellow Suji)

**a short testimonial:** Through BJDs and ManikaManila, I've met a lot of great people with whom I share a lot in common with aside from being in the same hobby. Many of these people are very creative, too, and we all help each other improve in our craft.

**name:** Karen Arvie  
Gabriel  
**age:** 28

**bjd name/s & brand/sculpt:**

Naya Summer Hale  
(Iplehouse YID Gentle Freezia),  
Robin Jenkins (Migidoll Mu),  
Danelle Hue (Lati Yellow Lami),  
Magnolia (Fairylad MNF Dreaming Marcia),

Malena Jeunet (Spiritdoll Proud Atropa)  
**a short testimonial:** For me, owning a BJD made me realize that I can still improve on my craft and actually learn new stuff. They are like tools to help you exercise creativity.

**name:** Madz Nievera  
**age:** 25

**bjd name/s & brand/sculpt:**

Alice (Doll Love Alice),  
Axis (Iplehouse Mars),  
Elie - (Latidoll Sunny)

**a short testimonial:** I love the BJD hobby because it helps me practice my creativity through sewing, photography, and writing stories. The hobby also led me to meet awesome people at Manika Manila.

**name:** Catherine San Luis  
**age:** 25

**bjd name/s & brand/sculpt:**

Cethrel Jean (Souldoll Maillo),  
Joshua (Souldoll D.Maillo),  
Trish (Soom Ace Wind Elf),  
Nanashi (Souldoll Issac the Devil Master),  
Hiver (Souldoll Shaun)

**a short testimonial:** My BJDs have definitely helped with my creative writing. Coming up with a backstory for them and working on their personalities is a never-ending exercise in world building. Making everything both consistent and interesting has been a challenge, but a fun one, especially with my resin kids continually inspiring me! I've also made friends in our local community who help me fill in plot holes. There are a lot of great artists and writers in ManikaManila, and it's been great belonging to such a creative community.

**name:** Anj Tan  
**age:** 28

**bjd name/s & brand/sculpt:**

Dice Khil (Migidoll Ryu),  
Endo Khil (Volks Ryoya Konoe),  
Chlo Sierren (Volks Williams),  
Ares Peacekeeper (Transcend \*B smm1n),  
Niwatori (Chicken) HuskDragon (Soom Arkose MD WS)

**a short testimonial:** This hobby has both enhanced my creativity and sustained it. Because I have a job during the day that doesn't utilize creativity at all, this serves as a break from all that to get back into what I really love to do at heart.

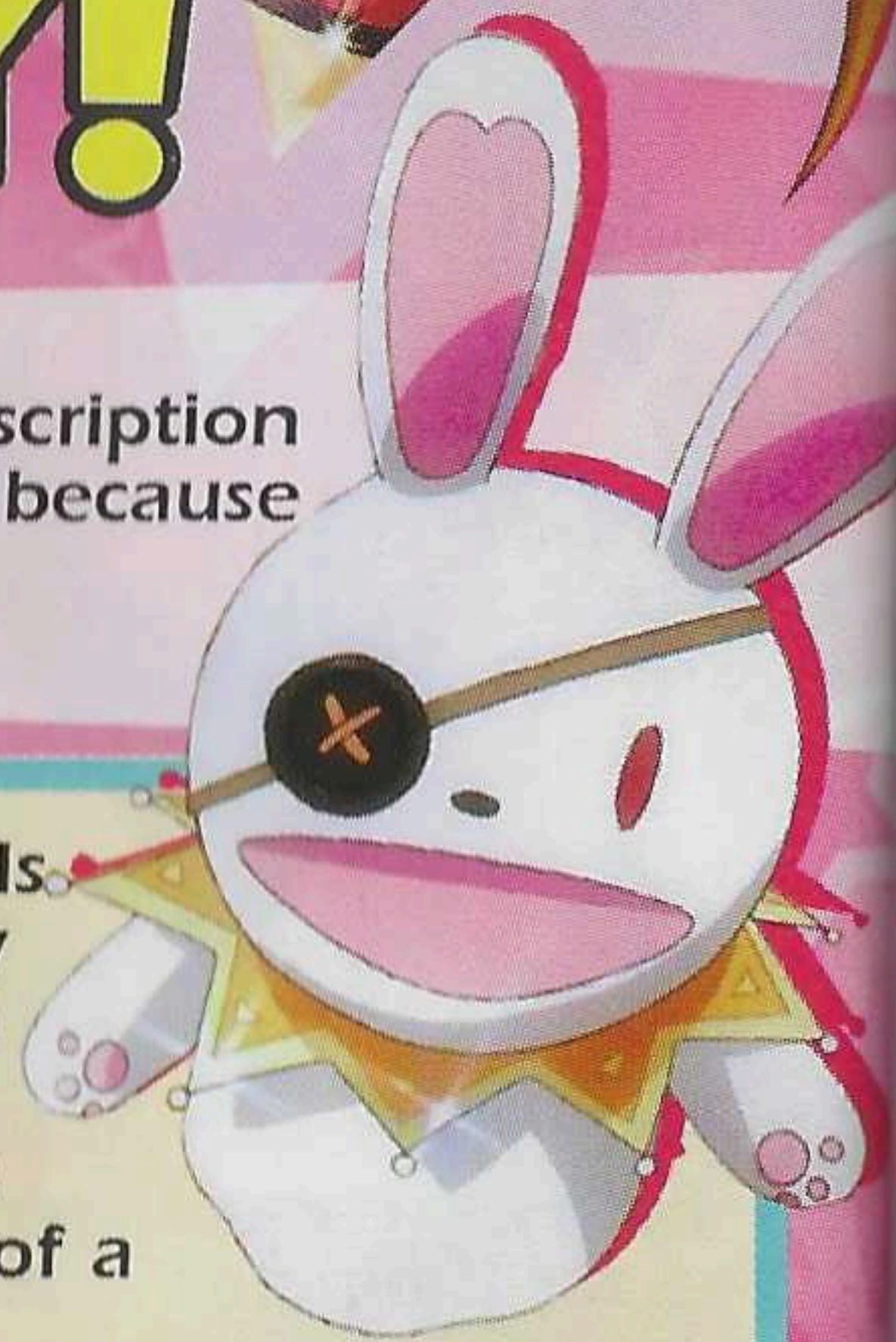




From a small body to large round eyes plus soft fur is a sample description of something cute. But this is not the only description available because "cute" or "kawaii" in Japan appears in different forms.



**Kawaii** can not only describe fantasy creatures or animals, but also people, depending on how they look or what they do that makes them attractive to others. The word kawaii came from "ka" which means **acceptable** and "ai" which means **love**. So, anything kawaii is anything that is lovable. What identifies something as kawaii is the resemblance of its features to that of a child which you can't help but pick up and cuddle.



Aside from the looks, being cute is also about behaving like a child. It instills the image of innocence, softness and kindness. Sometimes kawaii requires that something looks like it needs to be taken care of. Just imagine Tamagotchi or Pou, like any other pet that needs a lot of caring.

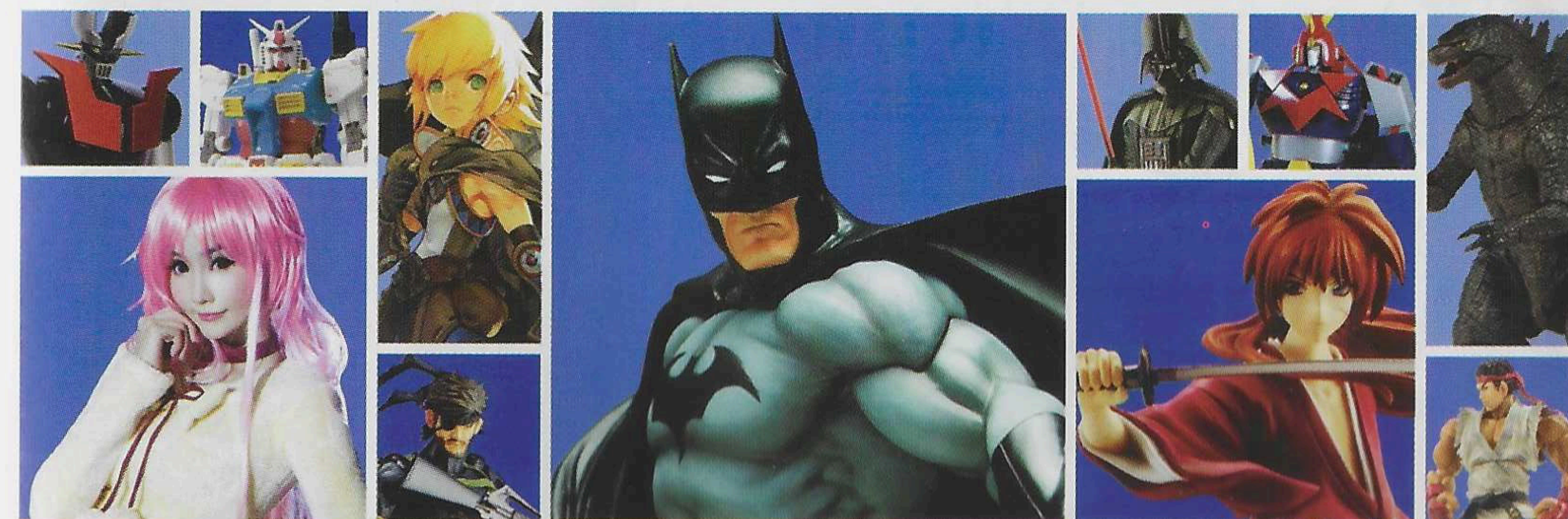


Thinking that kawaii only appeals to girls is an absolutely wrong notion. People of all ages and genders subscribe to the good vibes that cute items give. Cuteness also inspires warmth and security among people knowing that these characters are good friends.

Kawaii has become such a big part of Japan's popular culture that it has even conquered international trends, just like the wide popularity of Hello Kitty. This then helps us to create special relationships by sharing the same passion for kawaii.

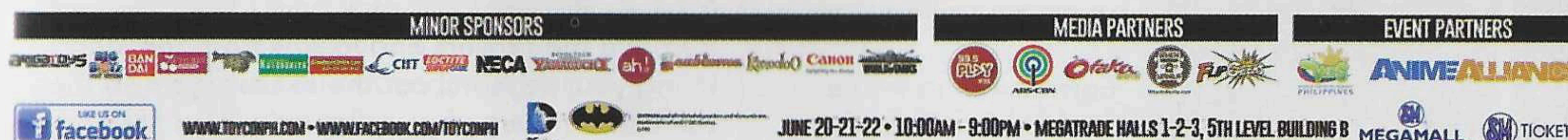
Filipinos share this passion because we highly value and appreciate our relationships with others. By communicating with others this cuteness that we're in love with, we are giving others and ourselves an opportunity to have more interaction.

**And friendship makes us both kawaii and happy!**



## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- BATMAN 75TH ANNIVERSARY
- MARVEL'S GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY
- RURONI KENSHIN EXHIBIT
- COSPLAY UNIVERSE & WORLD COSPLAY SUMMIT PHILIPPINE FINALS
- GI JOE 50TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT
- TOYCON GALLERY
- OPENING NIGHT PARTY
- PANEL DISCUSSIONS
- MARVEL ARTISTS SKETCHING AND SIGNING EVENT
- TOY CUSTOMIZING COMPETITIONS
- TOP ONLINE GAMING BOOTHS



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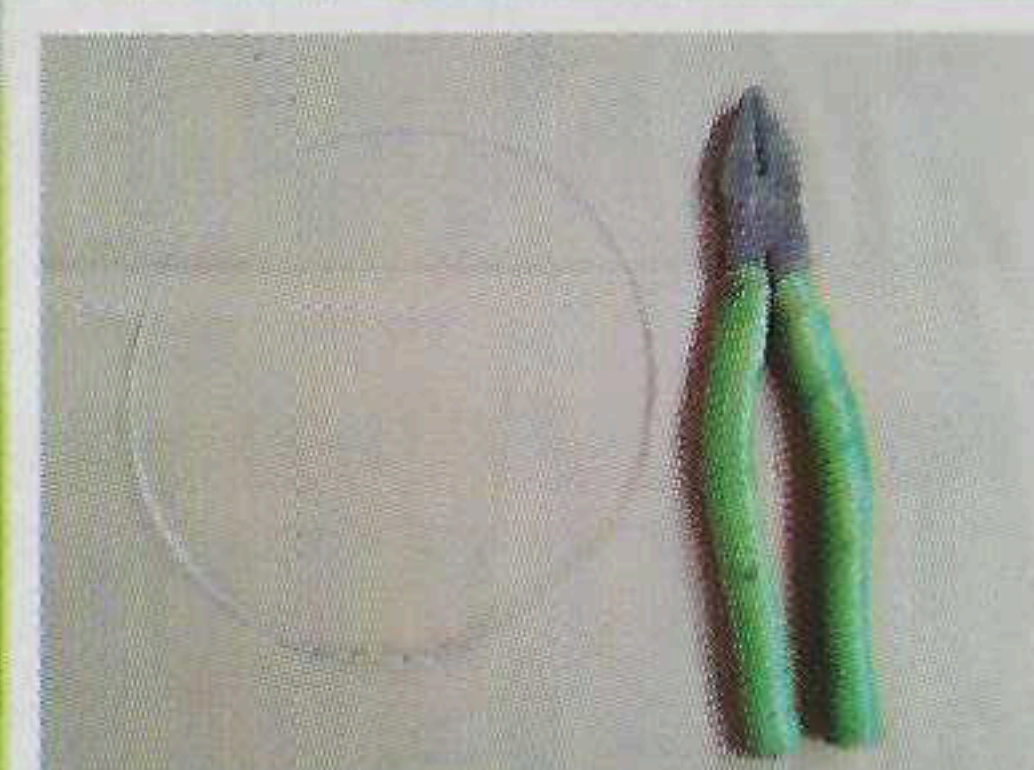
# MAKE YOUR OWN Flower Crown

WITH **Kawaii PH**



## MATERIALS

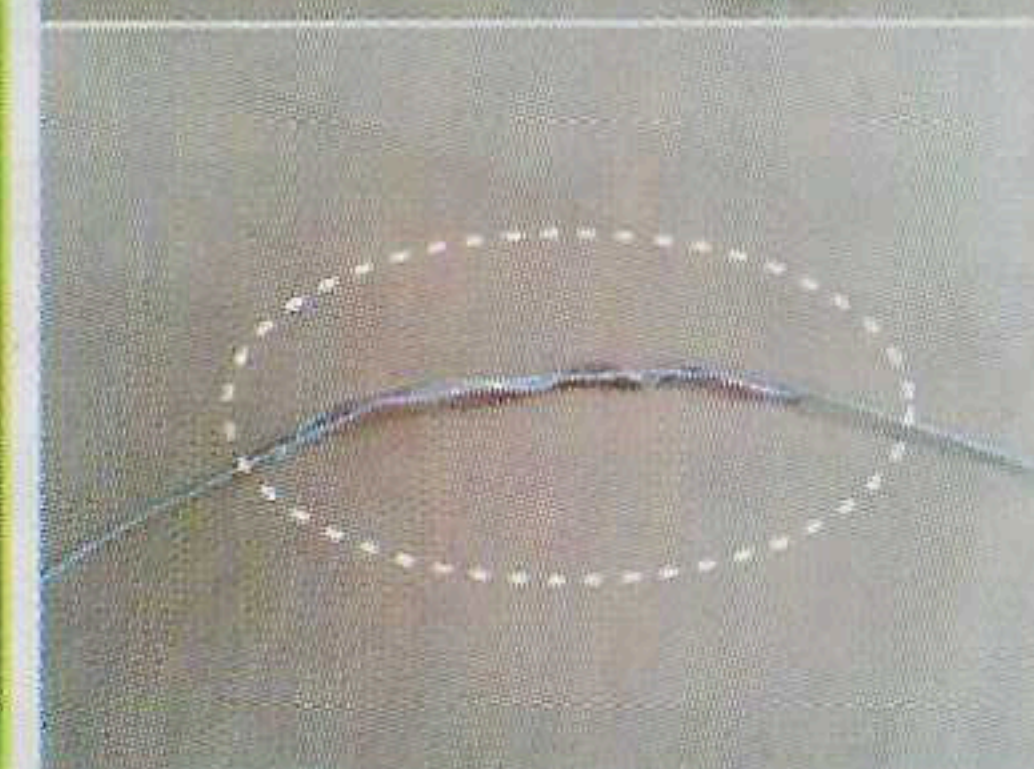
Artificial flowers, ribbon, glue gun and glue sticks, pliers, a pair of scissors, green electrical tape or paper tape, and a wire



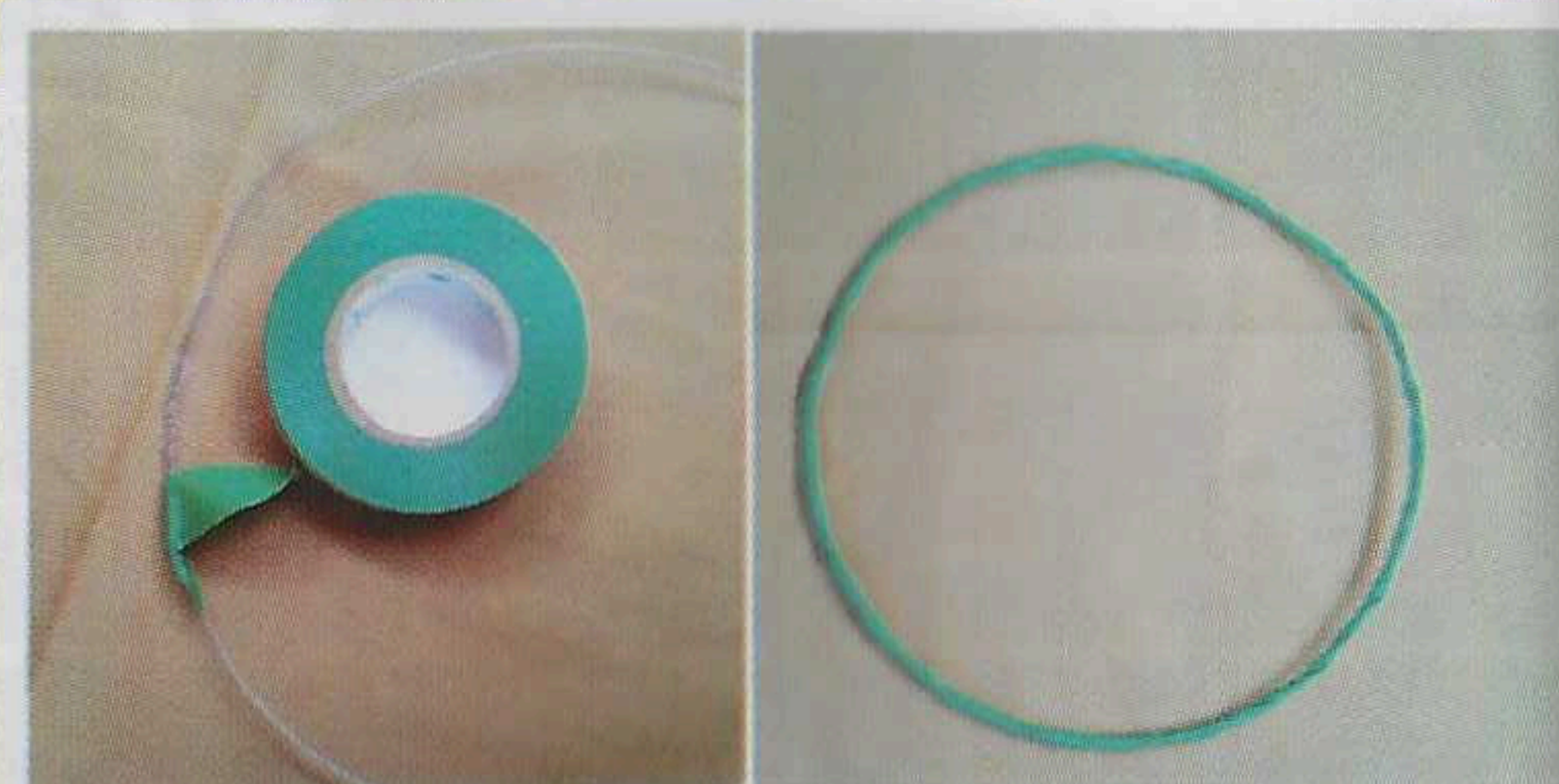
## STEP 1

Measure your head. About 22 inches would be enough.

After measuring your head, cut the wire using your pliers.



Form the wire into a circle and lock both ends by twisting them together.



## STEP 2

Cover up your newly formed wire with green electrical or paper tape. Now this will be the base where you will attach your flowers and leaves.



## STEP 3

Remove the flowers and leaves from the stem. Using your scissors, cut the excess stem so that the bottom part of your flower will be flat and it will be easier for you to glue it to your base. Make sure to cut the leaves' excess stem as well.



## STEP 4

Position your flowers the way you want it to look like.



## STEP 5

Glue the flowers to the base using the glue gun. *Be careful!* Add the leaves and glue them from the back so that it will look natural.



## STEP 6

After gluing the flowers and leaves together, wrap the excess green part with a ribbon and glue them together using a glue gun.



## STEP 7

Using your extra ribbon, tie a knot and glue some flowers at the ends of the ribbon.



## TADAA!

You now have your own Flower Crown! Wear it the way you like and feel pretty!






Don't forget to share with us your flower crown creation on Instagram!  
Tag us using **#kawaiiPH**

Flower Crown Tutorial by Kawaii Philippines.  
Words and Photos by Kaye Romero. Layout and Design by Anne Kate Piñero.





Kawaii Philippines (Kawaii PH) is your online portal for all cute finds that would definitely add some sparkle to your life! Created for Filipinos who love and appreciate the kawaii culture, Kawaii Philippines hopes to share and spread the love for all things cute, fun and happy. Japan may be the pioneer and kingdom of everything kawaii, but that doesn't mean that you can't experience kawaii in other parts of the globe such as the Philippines. This website will prove and show you that the kawaii experience is just within each Filipino's reach!

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# COSPLAY

This month, we approached two kawaii cosplayers in the country.

Known for her CC cosplay, Zhykrys has been a friend to Otaku Asia for a while now.

With her is Mikkitty known for her Mirai Kuriyama cosplay.

Alone, they are great.  
Together, they are invincible.



## Zhykrys

Favourite Anime: Macross Frontier, Hellsing, Mirai Nikki, Umineko & Higurashi, Yamato Nadeshiko, Orelmo, Flame of Recca, Chuunibyo

Genre:  
Incest & Horror

## Mikkitty

Favourite Anime: Macross Frontier, Ranma ½, Airgear, Hataraku Maou-sama, Tsukihime

Genre:  
Gore, mystery, slice of life



Otaku Asia (OA): When did you start cosplaying?  
Zhykrys (Z): Dec. 28, 2011 Ozine Fest  
Mikkitty (M): UP AME 2007

OA: What made you enter the cosplay community? Was it by influence or curiosity?

Z: My love for Anime & BJD. I was influenced by my otaku friends

M: I started cosplaying because I was curious as to what it feels like to cosplay my favourite characters even just for a day.

A friend invited me knowing that I am a game and anime enthusiast.

OA: Who are your favourite characters?

Z: Integra (Hellsing), Rip (Hellsing), Kirino Kaousaka (Oreimo), Yuno (Mirai Nikki), and etc.

M: Saotome Ranma, Ranka Lee, Gasai Yuno, Saber(FSN/Carnival Phantasm), Arachnid (Tsukihime/MBAACC)

OA: Do you have any criteria on selecting which character to cosplay?

M: Not really, I don't really let factors such as body type & skin colour to stop me from cosplaying the characters I love

Z: I really consider the body build of the character before I cosplay.

OA: Do you make your costumes and props?

M: Most of my props. I make it myself with help from some friends. Others were given to me as a gift (such as Saber's Aestus Estus). I don't own a sewing machine so I ask help from other shops.

Z: Well... most of the time.

OA: Which is your favourite cosplay so far?

M: Saber Bride (Fate/CCC)

Z: CC from Code Geass

OA: Have you tried crossdressing/playing?

M: Actually my first cosplay is a guy (Bao from KoF). I don't mind crossdressing again in the future.

Z: Yes, and I'm always mistaken as a guy

OA: Are you more into conventions or photoshoots?

M: I feel more comfortable in photoshoots because it's less hassle. Conventions are fun, but tends to get crowded.

Z: Balanced. I go to cons to meet friends and clients, while I go to shoots to get the shots that fit the feel and setting of the character

OA: Do you have a character you wish to cosplay but you can't?

Z: A LOT. But I really wanted to cosplay Rias Gremory but the body build & bust size is a major problem.

M: Prolly Morrigan. Same reason as Zhy's



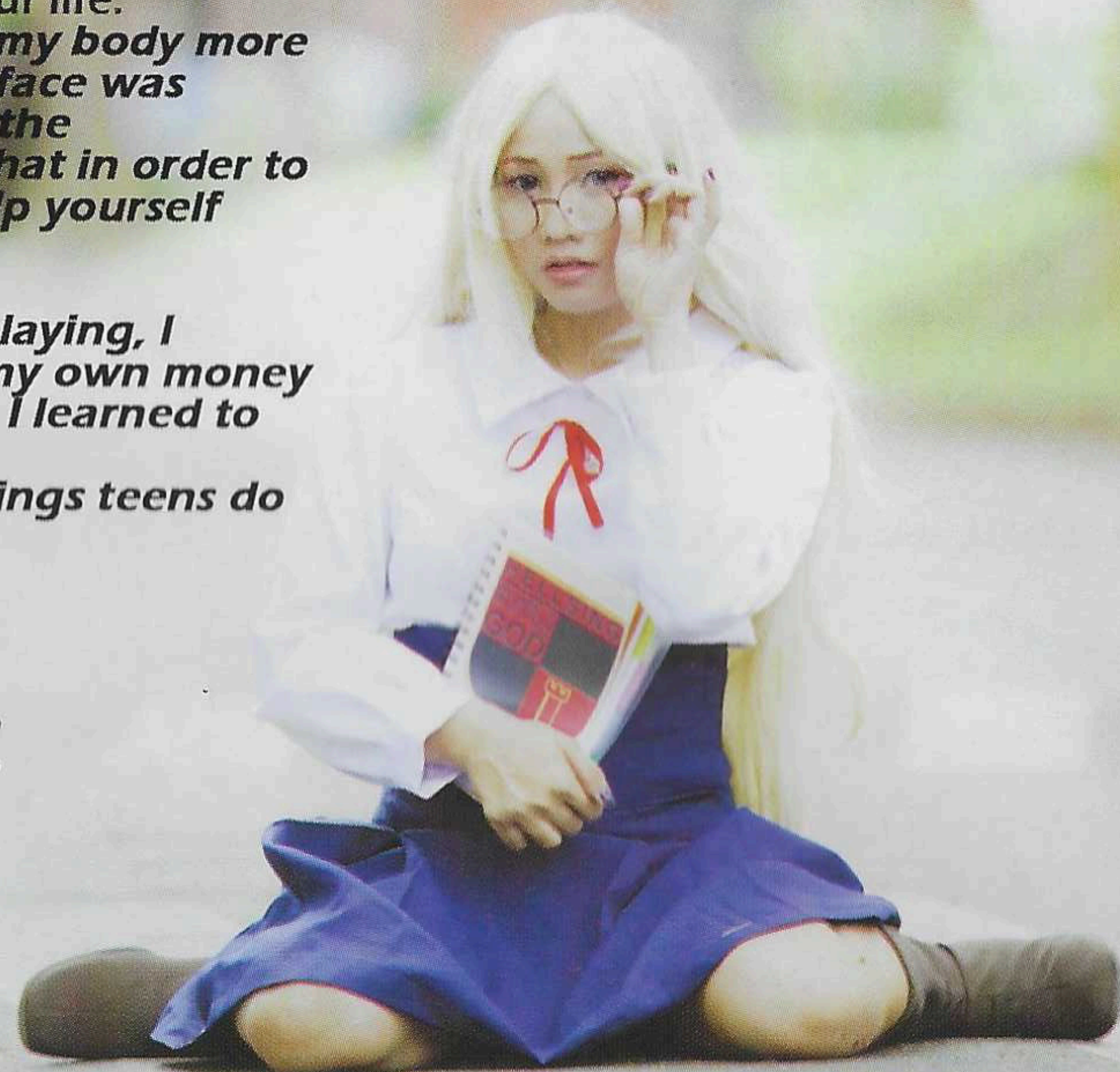
**OA:** Share something you learned from cosplaying that changed your life.  
**M:** I started taking care of my body more because I was tan and my face was super oily. People noticed the difference. I also learned that in order to get better, you have to help yourself first.

**Z:** Ever since I started cosplaying, I learned to save and earn my own money with my own efforts. Also, I learned to avoid bad influences from the evil things teens do nowadays.

**OA:** If not cosplaying, who is Zhykrys and Mikky?

**M:** Just an anime and game enthusiast. Or maybe I'll be a photographer

**Z:** If I'm not cosplaying, I would probably be the Zhykrys I was in high school. Reckless and spoiled.



**OA:** Got any upcoming cosplans you can share?

**M:** Ayame from Tenchu, Akatsuki of Log Horizon, Ibuki from Street Fighter

**Z:** Lilith from Darkstalkers, Another Blood from DemonBane, Msyu from C3 and Rip van winkle from Hellsing.

**OA:** When/what was your most memorable cosplay incident?

**M:** IOP 11!!! Running around while in Rei Miyamoto costume trying to escape from the zombies.

**Z:** Hmmm, so far, I could say it was at the Halloween Parade last 2012. I was wearing a Tokiya Ichinose cos and a wave of shoujos came running and screaming after me. Nobody believed I was a girl.



Zhykrys and Mikkitty would like to thank Vincent Noir Photography

**OA:** A message to the cosplay community  
**Z:** Harro Minna! To all cosplayers and photographers in the community; keep up the good work! Thank you for making our large family very colourful! <3

**M:** We were all noobs once in our lives. If you think you're not good enough, practice and put more effort in your works. Cosplay because you want to, not because others want you to.

If you are being bashed because you are not perfect, just remember that the only person you have to impress is yourself. Keep having fun and always strive to be a better cosplayer!

**OA:** Fill in the blank.

Cosplay is \_\_\_\_\_?

**M:** Cosplay is fun. It's for anyone who loves doing it.

**Z:** For me, Cosplay is my safe haven. It is where I can express my love for anime, game and art.







## OTAKU LIFE HACKS

# Elegance in Frills

by: Reikisha

In anime and manga, the characters that usually wear frilly clothes and accessories are either an aristocrat, living in a timeline where such fashion is considered normal, or an average person with a unique clothing preference. A fashion style that compliments their stature sometimes makes them look elegant and cute to the eyes.

**Are you interested to know about the famous Lolita fashion?**

**Lolita Fashion** is a fashion subculture based on the **Victorian era clothing** that originated in **Japan**. The Lolita look is primarily composed of a knee-length skirt or dress assisted by petticoats, but has expanded into various types of garments like corsets and headdresses. **Visual kei bands** are partly responsible for popularizing the Lolita fashion as they sometimes mix the visual kei fashion's make-up, hairstyle and flamboyant costumes with Lolita styles—particularly **Gothic Lolita**.

The term Lolita in Lolita fashion doesn't mean "little girls". Unlike other fashion styles, Lolita fashion presents the person as cute and elegant without exposing much skin. Although the fashion style is aimed towards women, there are existing sub-styles of the Lolita fashion specifically for men.

## Substyles

This fashion subculture has evolved into several sub-styles that are being used as reference for cosplay and visual tropes:



**Gothic Lolita**—shortened as **Goth loli**. It's a combination of **Gothic** and **Lolita** fashion which originated in Harajuku in the late 1990's. Gothic Lolita fashion uses **darker make-up and clothing** while looking fairly natural.

**Sweet Lolita**—also known as **Ama-loli**. This fashion style is heavily influenced by **Victorian** and **Edwardian clothing**, focusing on the fantasy aspects of Lolita. In contrast to Goth Loli, the Sweet Lolita style uses **lighter colors and child-like motifs** while adopting the basic Lolita format.

**Classic Lolita**—it is a combined style of **Gothic** and **Sweet Lolita** fashion. The sweetness is noticeable in terms of colors and patterns. This style is **more sophisticated and mature** since the classic Lolita focuses on Regency and Victorian styles.

**Punk Lolita**—**Punk fashion elements** such as tattered fabric, ties, plaids, and short, androgynous hairstyles are added to the Lolita fashion. By using ragged modern-day clothing and garments in addition to the basic Lolita look, Punk Lolita can be seen as "wild" among the four basic styles when it comes to appearance.

**Other styles**—There are other themes that are based from the Lolita fashion, although not as widely popular as the four main styles. People in the Lolita fashion world are able to showcase their creativity by developing a new and more original Lolita theme. Some styles incorporate Lolita fashion with traditional Japanese clothing or modifying a Chinese qipao into a Lolita-styled one.

Due to its global popularity, there are female cosplayers around the world who want to challenge themselves by wearing Lolita fashion-styled dresses in anime conventions. The style itself is not mass-marketed outside of Japan, but small stores dedicated for Lolita fashion has emerged in countries like Paris and San Francisco. Here in the Philippines, there are only few stores that specialize in Lolita clothing such as **Dorotee Sweetlips**, **Labyrinth Garden** and **Lolita Virus**. However, there are alternatives such as online shopping, hiring a seamstress or checking out Divisoria for materials and items to make your own ideal Lolita fashion.

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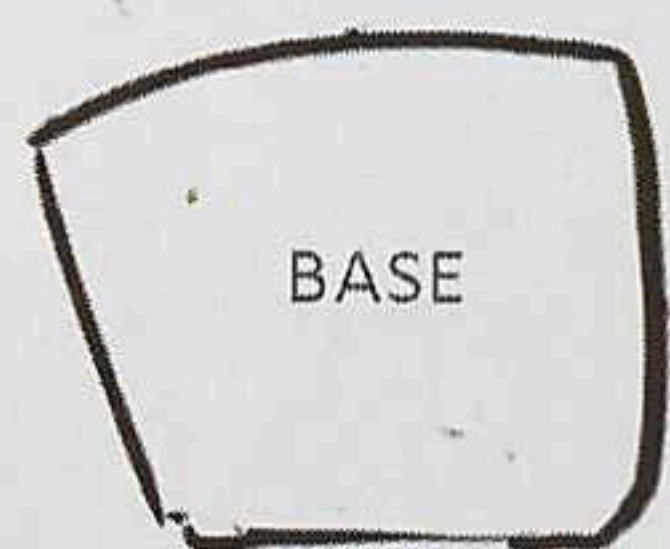


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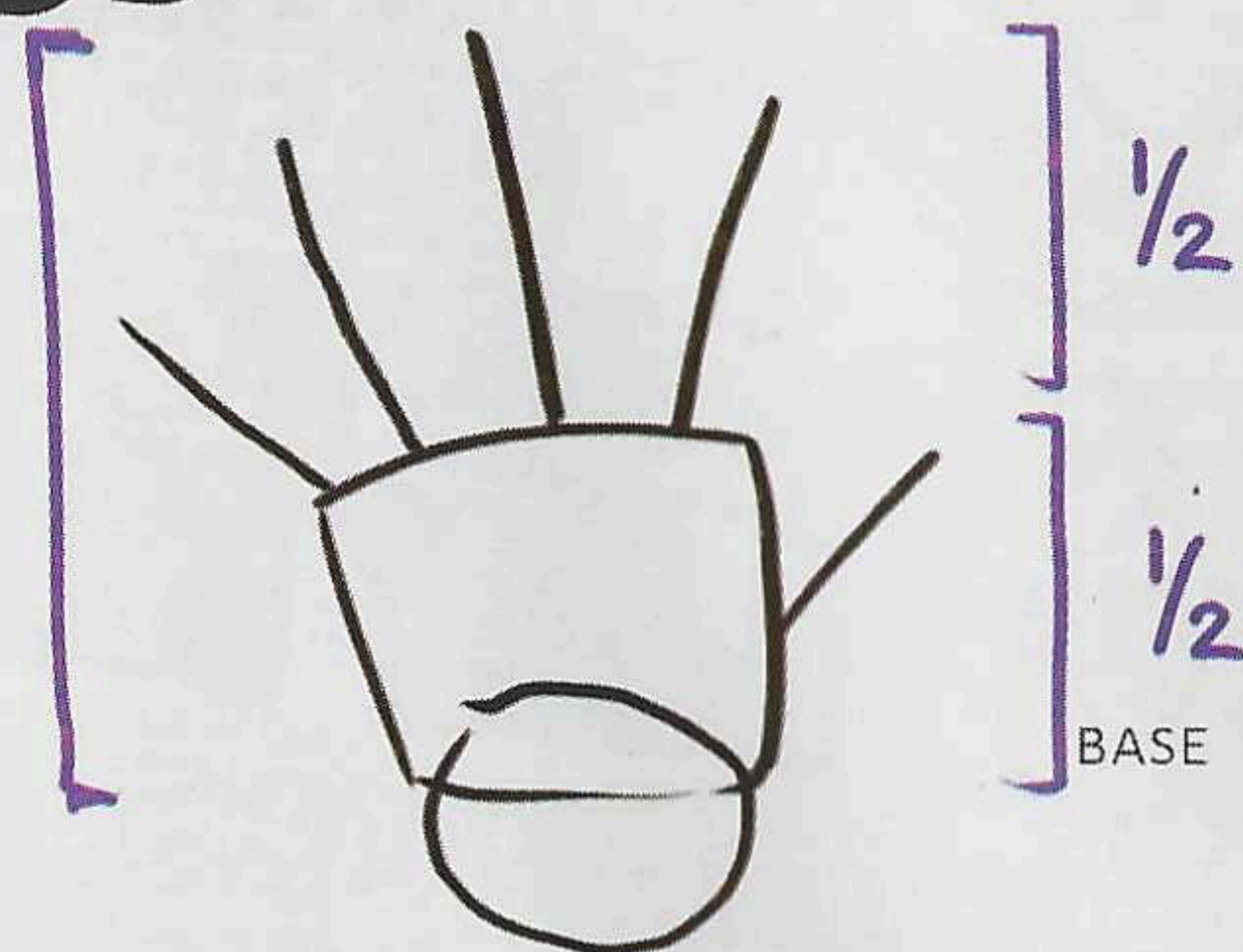




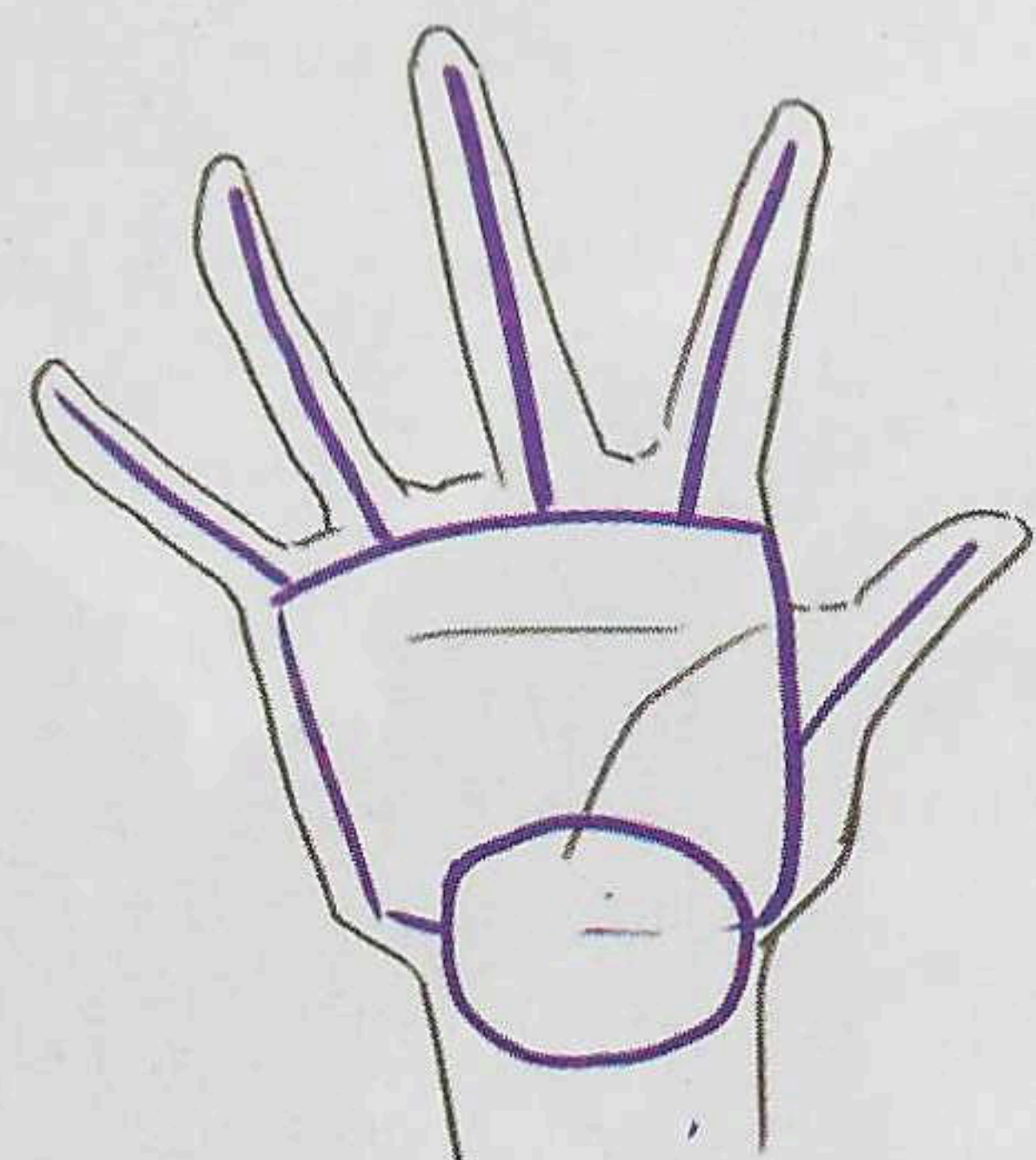
# ART OF OTAKU DRAWING HANDS!!



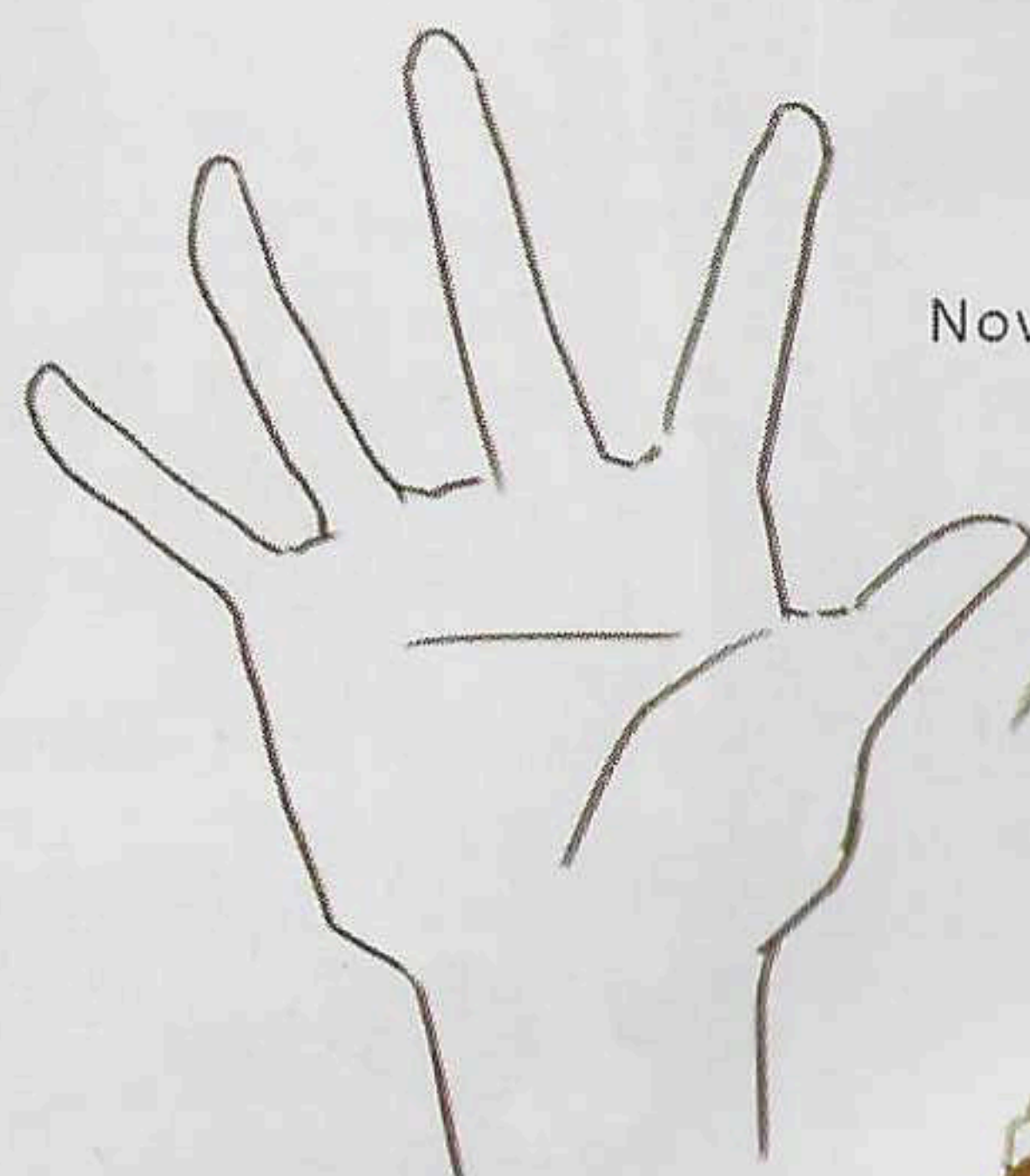
1 Draw a base of the hand.



2 For the fingers, if you are uneasy either if it's too long or too short, I usually use the same size of the base as my reference on how long I will make the fingers. Which is, if there's a one whole hand, I use  $\frac{1}{2}$  for the fingers and  $\frac{1}{2}$  for the base



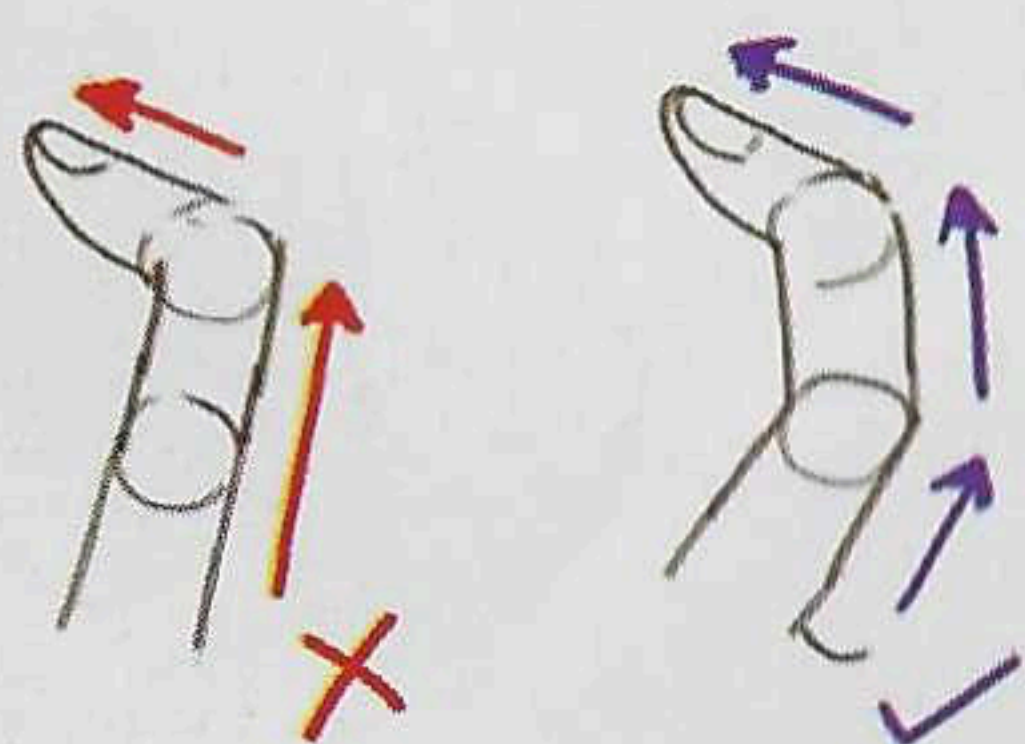
3 Now adding the flesh, I made the ink of the Step 2 sketch blue to know the skeleton. As you can see, I use only the straight fingers. So it's easy to flesh it out. Just trace the skeleton fingers to form a hand



4 Now erase the skeleton and you have a hand



## FingerTIPS



✗ There's no way you can bend your finger like that, not unless it's broken

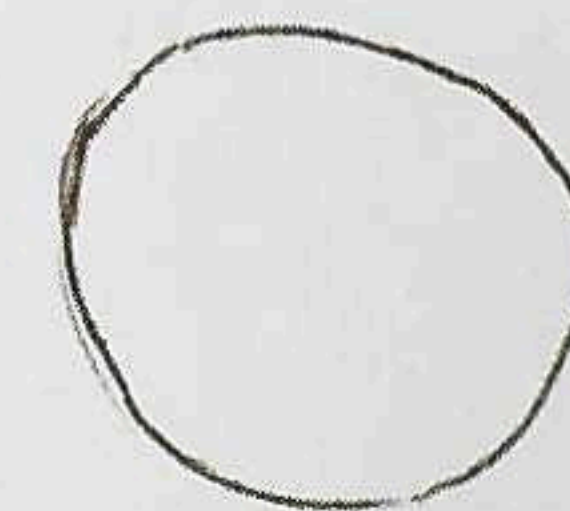
✓ Remember, the finger reflex always use two of its joints.

## Just a Friendly Tip on Drawing Hands

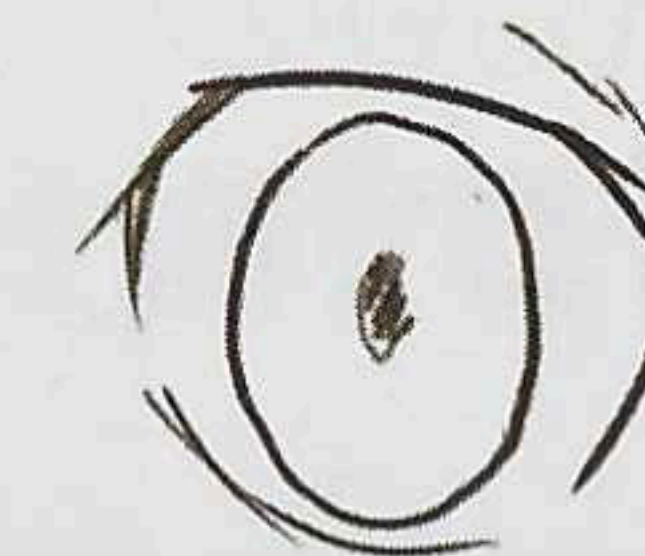
Make your hands as your guide and reference and a mirror for you to look at while you're doing hand gestures.

# DRAWING EYES!~

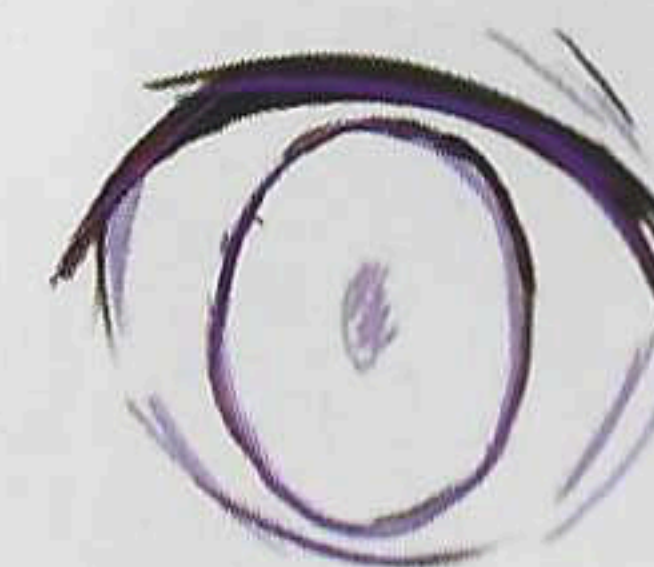
made by fruitloop-chan



1 Draw the eye's base. As you can see, I draw an oddly looking circle. This helped me on how I shaped the eyes.



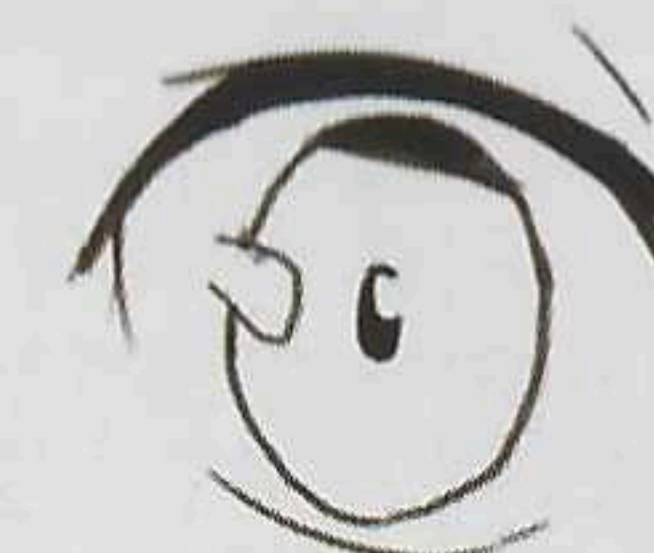
2 Start sketching the eye. Use the base on step 1 to shape the eye and putting on the eyelashes.



3 I made the step 2 sketch to a transparent blue for a guide on inking. I thicken the ink for the eyelashes and trace the rest.



4 Now erase the messy sketch and you now have an eye. Now, as you can see, the eye here doesn't contain any life on it. So in order to have that spark of life, put details on it, such as the pupil and the water.



Finished!



Eyes convey the emotions and builds the character. One look on the eye, and you know what the character is trying to say.

As the saying goes

"The eyes are the window of the soul"







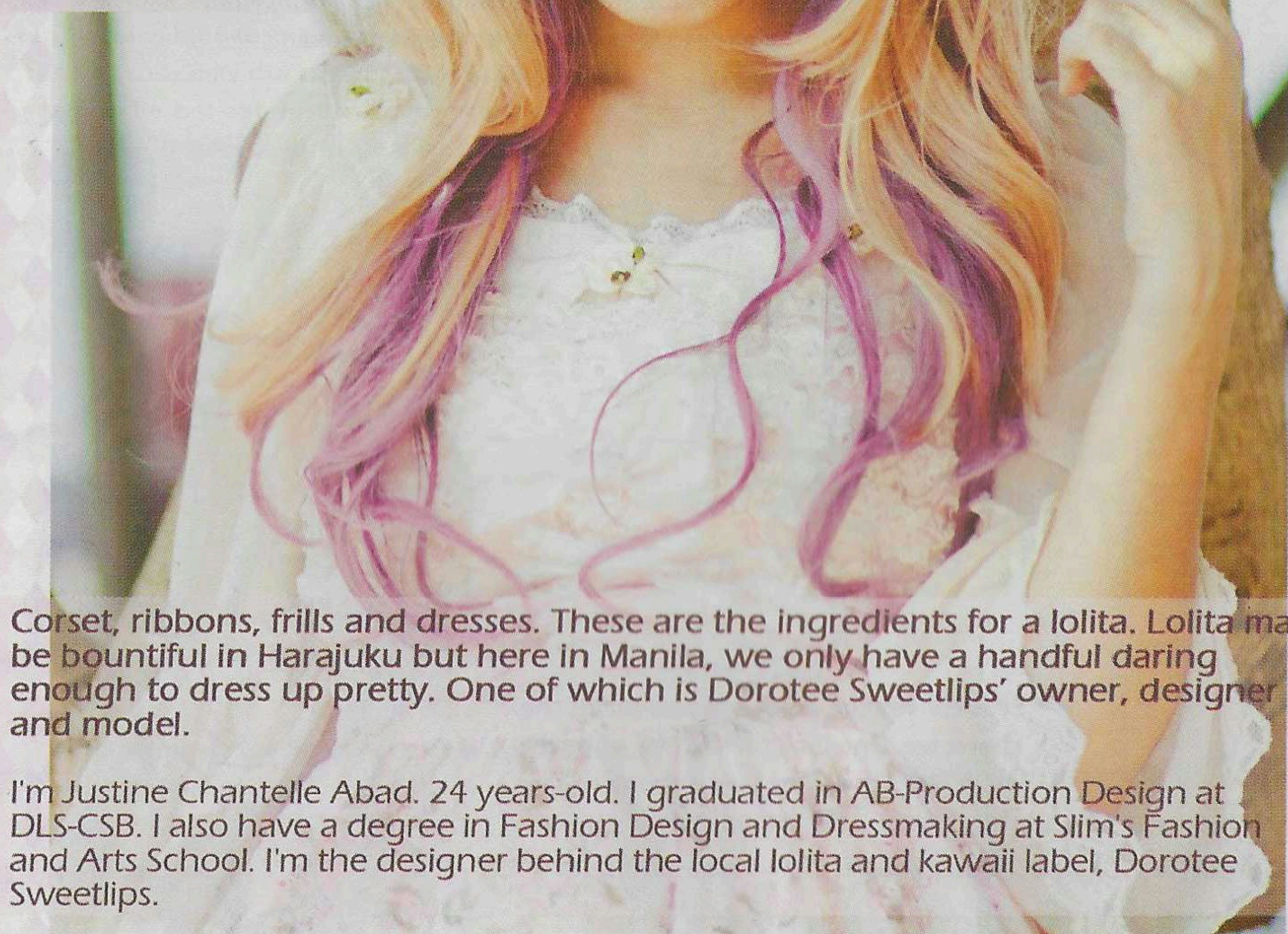
LOKAL'TAKU

# Justine Chantelle Abad

## Dorotee Sweetlips

**Role:**  
Proprietress / Designer  
**Base:**  
Sta. Mesa, Manila  
**Inspired by:**  
Gothic, Lolita and  
Kawaii fashion

**Career highlight:**  
I'm hoping to have my own fashion house someday where I could work with talented people to contribute with the brand. I hope to cater to the Tokyo market too in the near future.



Corset, ribbons, frills and dresses. These are the ingredients for a lolita. Lolita may be bountiful in Harajuku but here in Manila, we only have a handful daring enough to dress up pretty. One of which is Dorotee Sweetlips' owner, designer and model.

I'm Justine Chantelle Abad. 24 years-old. I graduated in AB-Production Design at DLS-CSB. I also have a degree in Fashion Design and Dressmaking at Slim's Fashion and Arts School. I'm the designer behind the local lolita and kawaii label, Dorotee Sweetlips.



**What is lolita fashion?**  
Lolita fashion is a fashion style that started in Japan as early as late 1980s. It's inspired by Rococo and Victorian era fashion.

**What is Dorotee Sweetlips?**  
Justine Chantelle's manifestation of dreams, fantasies, and the odd. Greatly influenced by lolita fashion, but not limited to. My designs is a play between the thin borders of what is whimsy and surreal, dainty and innocent, and what is dark and erotic.

**As a designer, where do you get your inspiration?**  
Mostly anything whether it be a simple flower or a piece of feather. Before, I would usually base my designs from existing ones but after I attended fashion school, I learned how to get inspiration from my surroundings. That way, I produce more original and one-of-a-kind work.

**Any favorite?**  
I don't have a specific favorite, honestly! But you would mostly see me in a hime x classic mix.



**Do you think the Philippine fashion can merge with lolita?**

Of course! Our traditional clothing which is the baro't saya and/or the terno is the only traditional clothing in Asia that is inspired by the western traditional costumes. It is easier to incorporate our fashion to lolita since it already have that Victorian flair in it. As for the current trends, lolita is now being slowly acknowledged with the rise of kawaii culture in Manila recently.

**How do you think a lolita dress with Pinoy products/design will look like?**

Super cutel I've seen quiet a lot of modernized terno before; short skirts/ fluffy skirts / pastel fabrics- while still maintaining the signature butterfly sleeves. The idea is not really that new especially in this generation.

**Do you see a future where lolita fashion would be normal/natural in the Philippines?**

Well, the idea of spreading about the culture is nice but



lolita will always be a unique fashion statement. Even in Japan, not everyone consider it "normal". There are reasons why enthusiasts would hang out in Harajuku - to enjoy the crazy culture. Also, we must admit that it takes a lot of research and investment to pull-off a successful lolita outfit. It's not easy but very do-able if you have genuine love for it.

**Do you have any last words to close the interview? Invite them to try lolita fashion or ask them to shop in DS.**

Let me quote Novala Takemoto:

*Sew frills onto the hem of your heart!  
Put a tiara on top of your soul!  
Have pride.*

Lolita or not, whatever you do, do it for you. Make sure it's something that would make you happy and you're good to go!

Interview and layout by Kanddy  
Photos are owned by their respective owners





## CHARACTER BIO

# MISS NONSENSICAL

By: Reikisha

Mako is the main reason why Ryuuko Matoi never lost her way. Her nonsensical antics and hyperactive personality makes it difficult to hate her, and somehow unintentionally captured the heart of Ira Gamagori. She might be an ordinary girl, but when she dons her two-star Goku uniform, her power level will rise to over 9000!



Name: Mako Mankanshoku  
Title: Underachiever  
Origin: Honnouji City (Slums area)  
Age: 17 years old  
Affiliations: Honnouji Academy, Nudist Beach  
Rank: No-star  
Character Voice: Aya Suzuki



## Background

Mako Mankanshoku is a hyperactive girl who easily befriends Ryuuko Matoi the moment she transferred into Honnouji Academy to search for her father's murderer. Mako was saved twice by Ryuuko during the time she was used as a hostage by the disciplinary committee and when the tennis club captain apprehended her for missing practice on the same day Mako became a hostage.

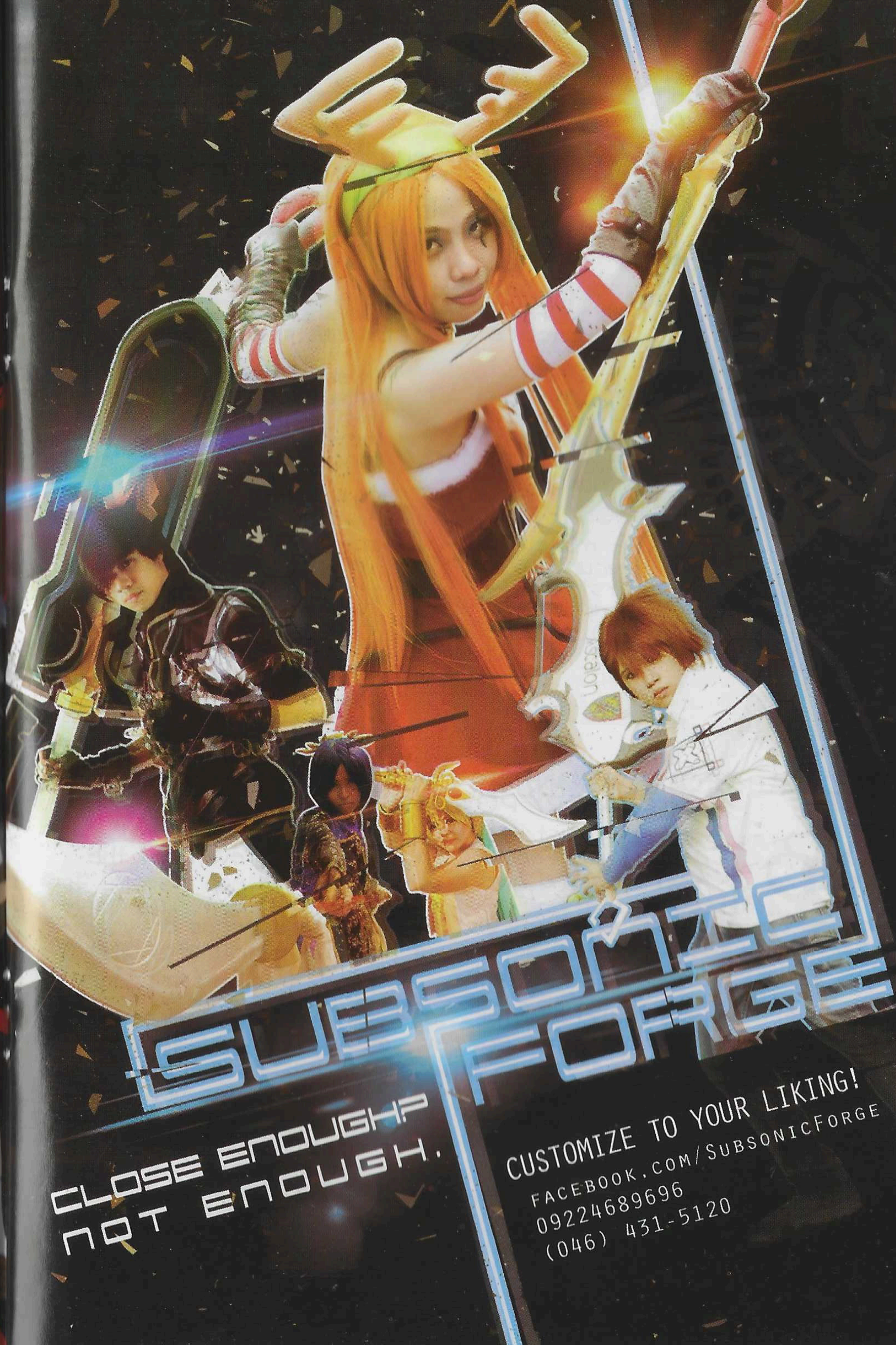
Since Mako is a **no-star student**, she lives with her family in the slums of the city. Despite their social status in a city ruled by Satsuki Kiryuin's iron fists, Mako and her family is happy with their current life. Although there's a time when her rank rose from no-star to two-star because of the fighting club, Mako's family became greedy and decided that she must fight for her family's newfound happiness even if it means turning against Ryuuko.

Mako's goofy personality, selective hearing and nonsensical logic sometimes make Nonon Jakuzure annoyed at her. As proof, Nonon calls Mako an **underachiever** and looks down on her like she does to everyone else save Satsuki. Ryuuko, on the other hand, feels at ease whenever Mako acts like she usually does. In Nui Harime's case, it seems that she harbors **murderous hatred** towards Mako as her tone and facial expression changes whenever Mako tries to make another speech about Ryuuko.

Her two-star uniform resembles a typical Banchou outfit in-respect to her theme as the fighting club's captain. Wearing it gives Mako enhanced physical prowess that reached superhuman levels. A single punch can create a giant crater in the ground and powerful kicks that send people flying. She also has access to several golden weapons such as a spiked bat, ball-and-chain and a wrench. Aside from her Goku uniform, it appears that Mako's body can adapt to Life Fibers as she is the only one among all the two-star students that showed the greatest growth in power when wearing one.

### More about Mako Mankanshoku:

- Her two-star Goku uniform is actually a reference to Koutaro Kujou from Jojo's Bizarre Adventure and has ties with common visual trope that portrays stereotypical high school delinquents in anime and manga.
- She can summon stage lights, props, diagrams, and shapes out of thin air, but this is only used as visual effects during her monologues.



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## basic cosplay make-up guide

by miss tiffany sy

-This is basically how I apply my own makeup. You don't need to follow this in verbatim, just do what you're comfortable with.

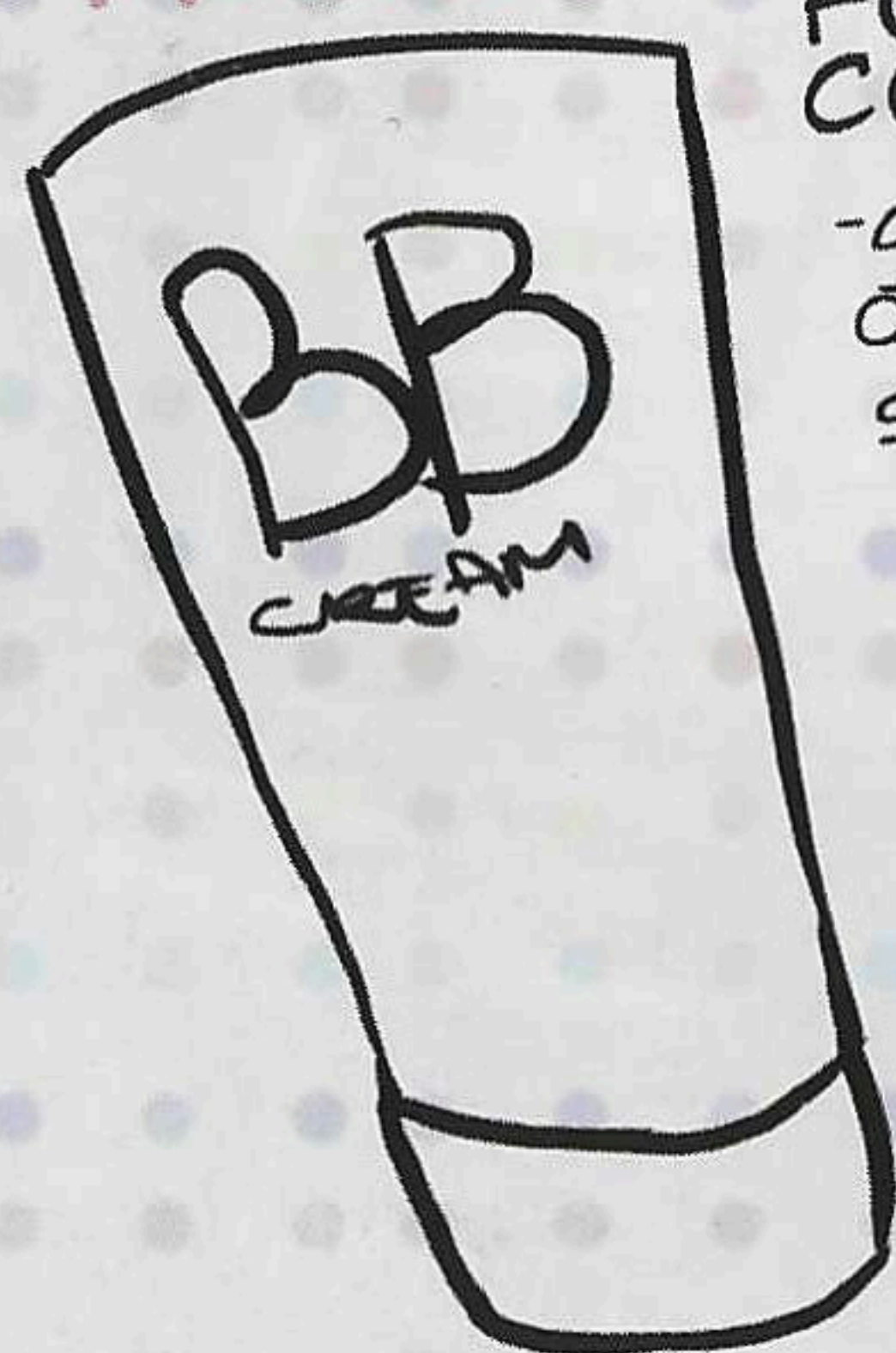
-Most of these depend on the character you want to cosplay as; cosplay makeup is basically getting a balance of imitating the look of the character and doing makeup that suits your face the most

-To avoid ruining your makeup (and getting smudges on your cos), wear your costume top first, and put your wig. You can wear a buttoned down top too so when you take it off, the clothes won't touch your face.

## CONTACT LENS

- solution is for the contacts, not your eyes
- wear contact lens before putting any makeup on as this is when your hands are the cleanest (very important in handling lens)
- style and color of contact lens would depend on the character, or if you need one in the first place; but generally use dolly lens (or 15mm) for bigger eyes and normal lens (14mm) for smaller or masculine eyes

## FACE!



### FOUNDATION/ BB CREAM/ CONCEALER/ POWDER

-generally, just use anything to hide blemishes and other imperfections on the face to even out the skin tone and give it a flawless look

-products that you need to use depends on your skin; if you don't have that much blemishes, just powder is enough

Anime characters tend to have light colored skin. Foundation + Powder can help you get lighter skin. However, if your character has dark skin, BB Cream + Bronzer will give you the tan you need.

### HIGHLIGHTS AND CONTOUR

-basically this is to change the facial structure of your face (i.e. making your nose more pointed, making your cheeks rounder/ slimmer, etc.); this would depend on the character's facial structure



CONTOUR



HIGHLIGHT

## EYES~

### EYESHADOW

- mostly for female characters and if the character calls for it
- eyeshadow can be used for eye contour and highlights (i.e. making the eyes look deeper or bigger)

### EYELINER

-basically just draw the eyeshape of the character; you can use anything you are most comfortable with

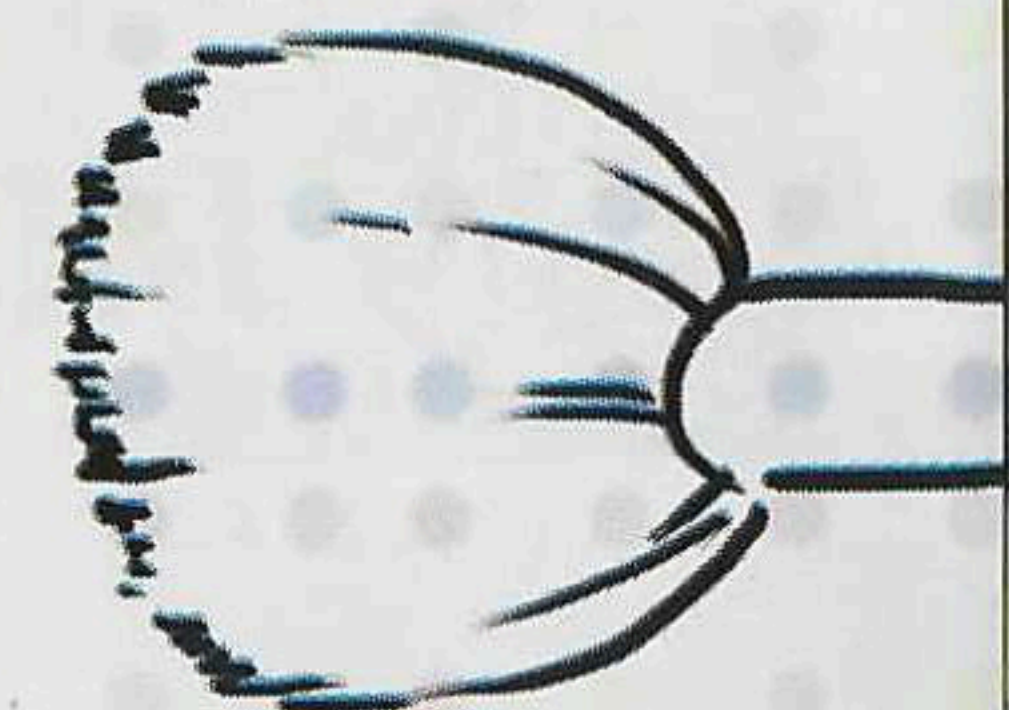
-if needed, use white liner to make your eyes look bigger

### EYEBROW

-the colors of the brows should be the same with wig color, unless the character design says otherwise (i.e. Kagami Taiga)

-how your brows are drawn/shaped is also important; masculine characters have thicker and more angled brows while feminine character's brows are thinner and rounded; again, this depends on the character

POWDER BRUSH



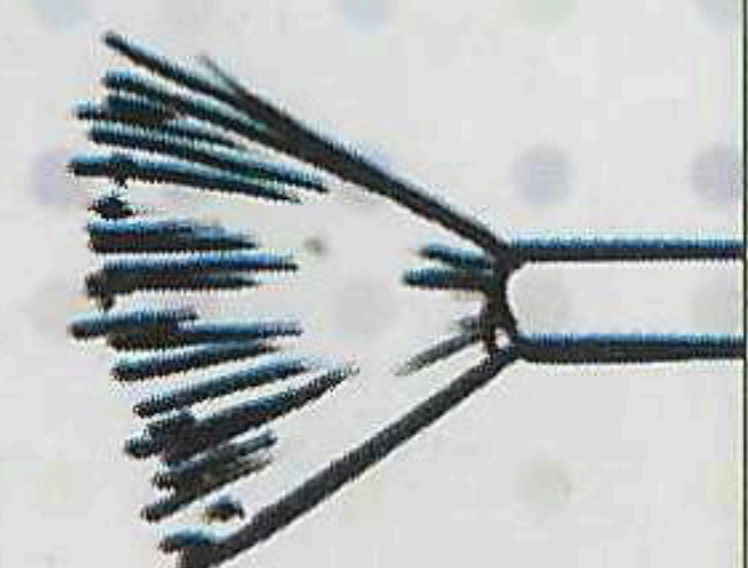
BROW BRUSH



EYESHADOW BRUSH



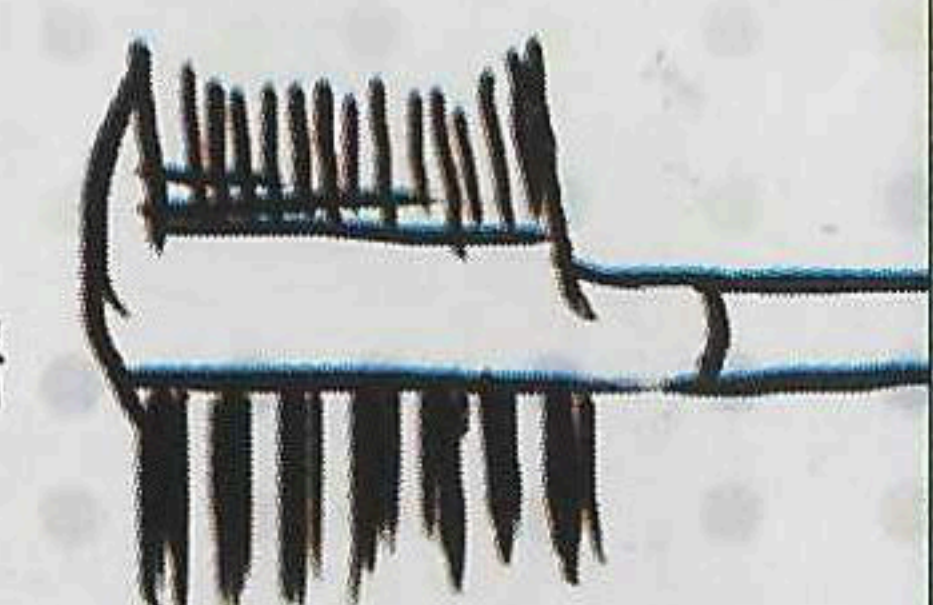
FAN BRUSH/ HIGHLIGHTER



SPONGE APPLICATOR



EYEBROW/ EYELASH BRUSH



CONTOUR BRUSH



## LIPS <3

-for masculine characters or thinner lips, you may opt to use powder or concealer to lessen the redness

-for feminine characters, use lipstick or lipliner; the shade would depend on the character, of course

-for younger/more natural look, use a lighter shade of pink, while darker shades (or red) would suit older/mature characters more

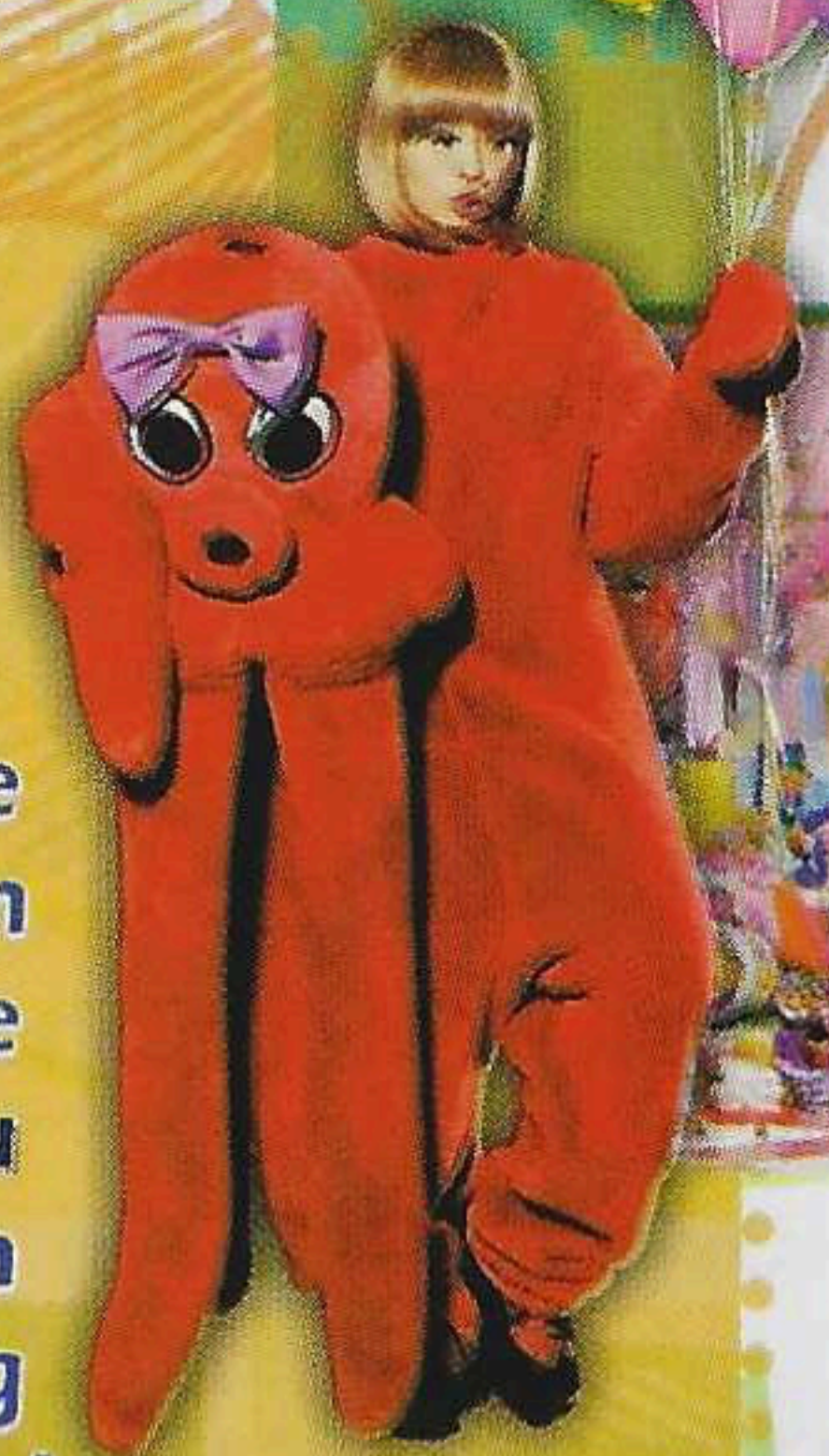


# Kyary Pamyu Pamyu

A sweet little thing that gives you joy in an instant is how Kyary Pamyu Pamyu describes candy in her song, Candy Candy. Indeed, when you see and hear this J-idol now renowned as the new embodiment of kawaii culture, you will also feel such a sweet and tangy bliss!



Meet Kyary or Kiriko Takemura in real life. She first embarked in her journey by being a model for Japanese fashion magazines like KERA in 2009. From here, she became popular for her Harajuku fashion style often characterized by mixing and matching traditional and modern clothing. It mainly originated from Harajuku street, a fashion district in Japan, and where young Kyary was discovered.



Ponponpon



Moshi Moshi Harajuku



Her hit single, Ponponpon was released in July 2010 and a month later, was included in her first EP entitled Moshi Moshi Harajuku under Warner Music and with Yasutaka Nakata as producer. As of now, Ponponpon has gathered more than 62 million views on Youtube because of the catchy tune and the message of having carefree fun.



In 2013, three more of her singles were released, namely:



Kimi ni 100% / Furisodeshon



Ninja Re Bang Bang



Invader Invader

Through floating brains and eyeballs and twirling dinosaurs and skulls, Kyary Pamyu Pamyu is redefining kawaii. With one's acceptance of imperfections and oddities, we turn things topsy turvy by making them positive. It seems this is Kyary's big mission. Let's all come and join her for this fun and lively parade! Ponponpon, everyone!

Following this fame, she released her album, Pamyu Pamyu Revolution in May 2012 which included the top-chart hits Tsukema Tsukeru and Candy Candy. By June, she performed a nationwide tour, and by November, she did her first one-man live concert in Nippon Budokan in Tokyo, Japan. She also released Fashion Monster as a single in a commercial in October.



Pamyu Pamyu Revolution

Candy Candy

Tsukema Tsukeru

Fashion Monster



On February, she also began 100%KPP, her first world tour concert in France, U.S., England, Belgium, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Australia and Japan.



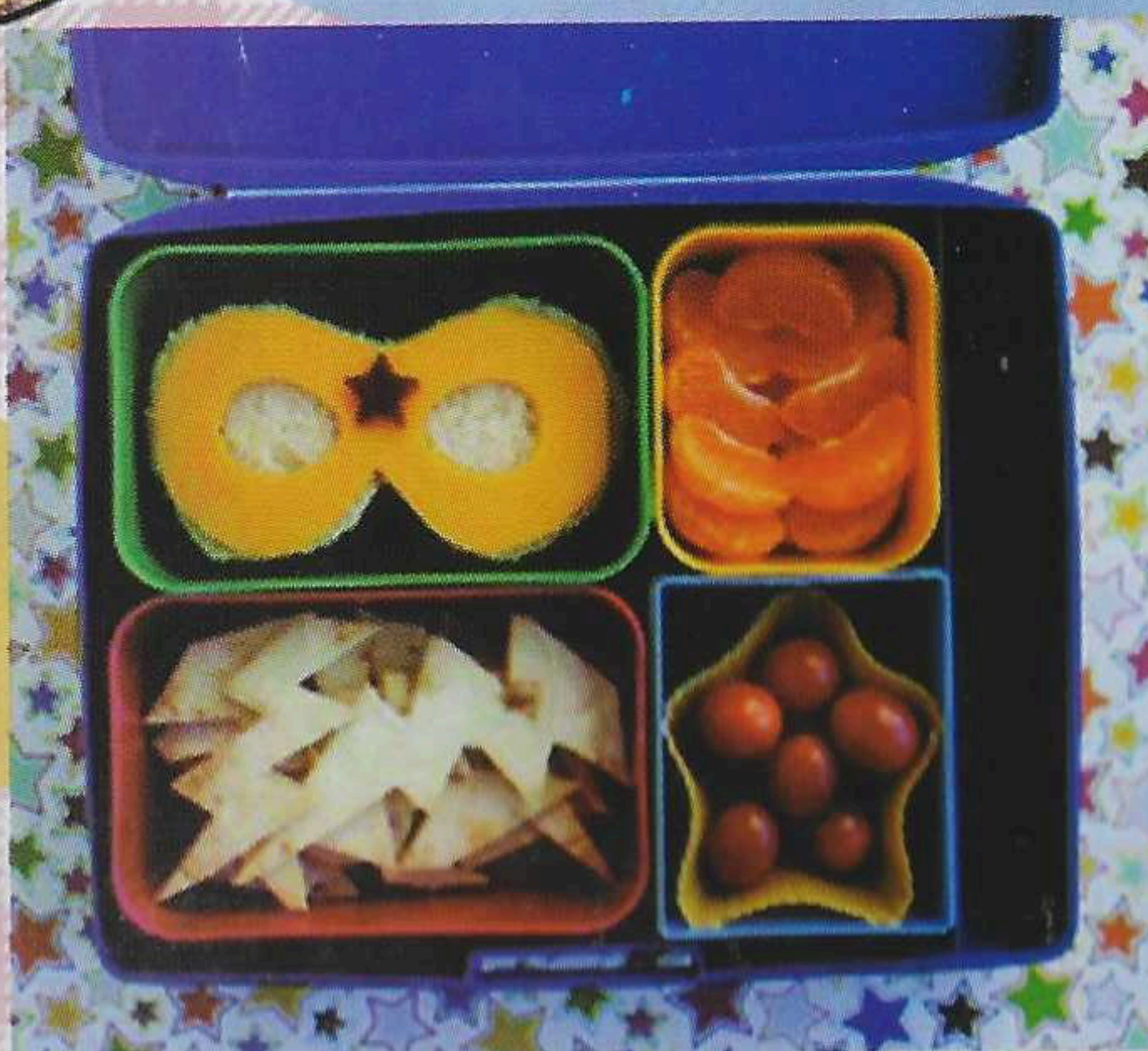








## HOOKED BOOK

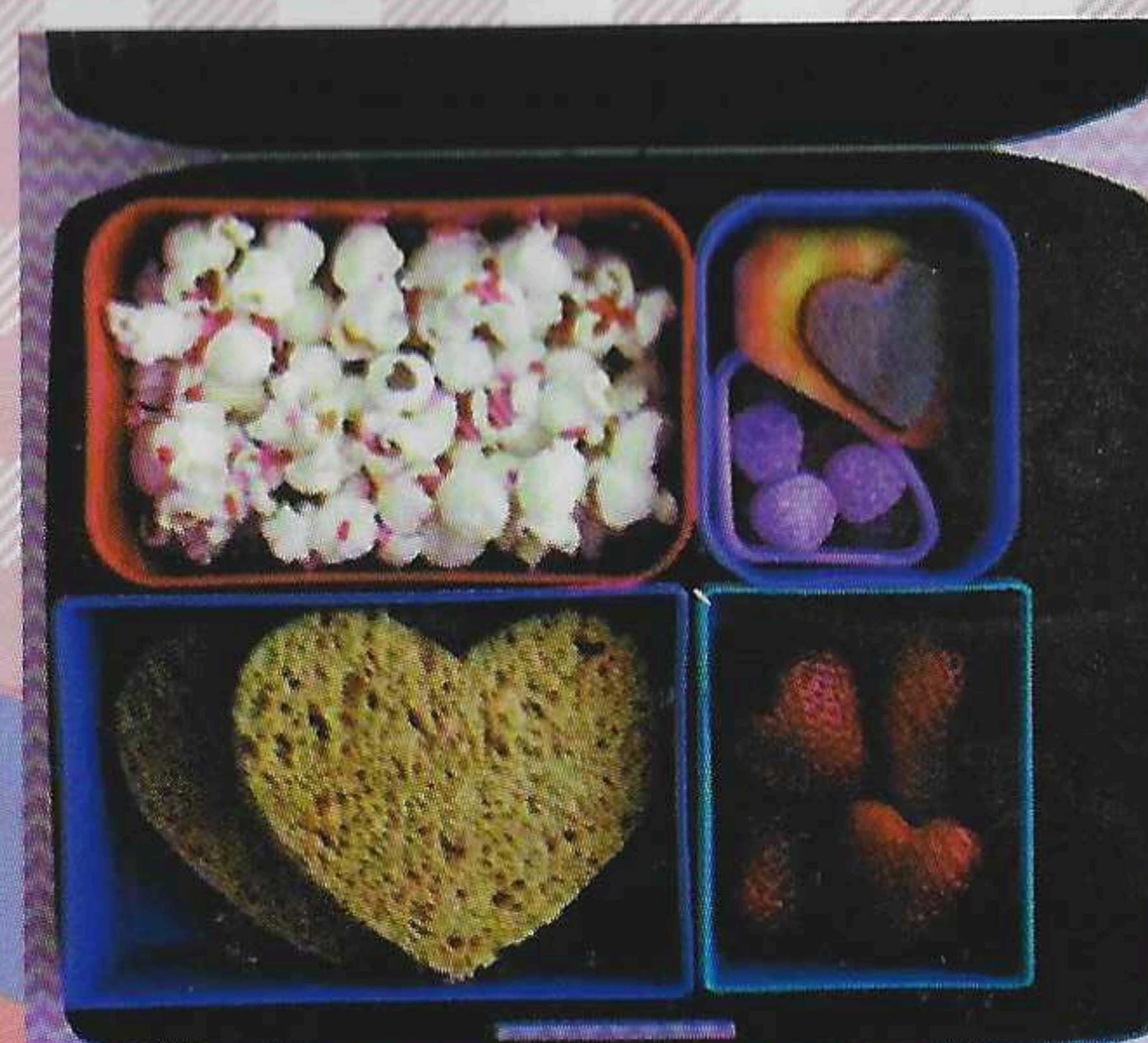
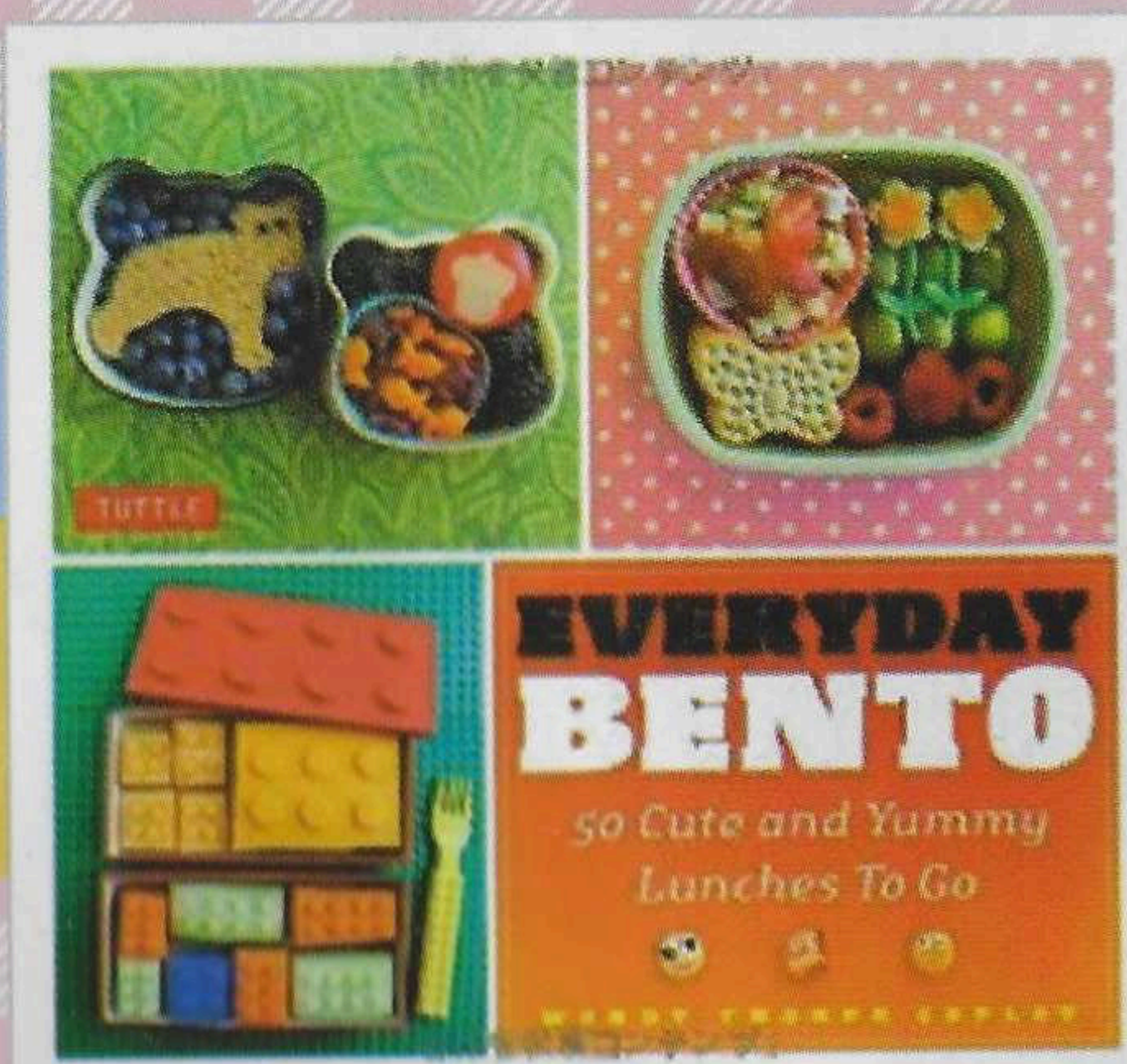


### Make your bento special with Everyday Bento!

There is always an anime school girl who prepares a lunch box for her love one or crush. Like Hinata Kagura of H2O: Footprints in The Sand, she practiced to make a good bento box for Takuma Hirose but burned a hundred eggs. Then there's Sawako Koronuma of Kimi no Todoke who always prepares a bento for her best friends Yoshida and Chizuru. Truly, Japanese have their own style of decorating their own meals, making it presentable and palatable to the person who will eat their home-made bento.

Bento is similar to the packed lunch which includes a variety of seafoods, meat, vegetables and sauces. Bento boxes, besides from being attractive, it is also healthy. Making bentos doesn't require skills; you only have to be imaginative to create your own personalized lunch box that will suit your eyes and taste.

Wendy Thorpe Copley wrote the book Everyday Bento which includes 50 cute and yummy lunches and is customized to the American-style of adaptation of lunch boxes. Some of the easy but tasty recipes are the Princess bento, Snowman bento, Farm yard animals bento, Rock and Roll bento and



The recipe book is divided to four sections, like the bentos that were made during busy mornings and for breakfast, a customized and personalized bento on the extra-special bentos section, some bentos that is a must to prepare for each season and the bentos for students and grown-ups which is usually prepared and brought to school or work.

If you want to make a move on your crushes, equip yourself with this book Everyday Bento, learn from the book and surely your bento will be a pleasurable lunch box. The book was been made for you, to express your feelings and appreciation through cooking, so be sure to avail this 'a must-have' book.

Why choose between "health" and "taste"...  
when you can have **BOTH**

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We all consider music as a big part of our lives. Sometimes, we even think of a song which best suits our current situation. We always find songs we can relate to. It's no wonder that everyone loves music.

Shintaro Kisaragi is a shut-in who lives his life normally until he met a cyber-girl named Ene who lives in his computer. One day, Ene messes up with his computer which causes him to go to the outside world for the first time in two years.

Shintaro went to the department store, where a robbery is happening and civilians were held hostage inside for ransom. Shintaro comes into contact with a group of teenagers who call themselves as "Mekakushi Dan" who was able to stop the robbery, forcing Shintaro to join their group.

### カゲロウプロジェクト Kagerou Project

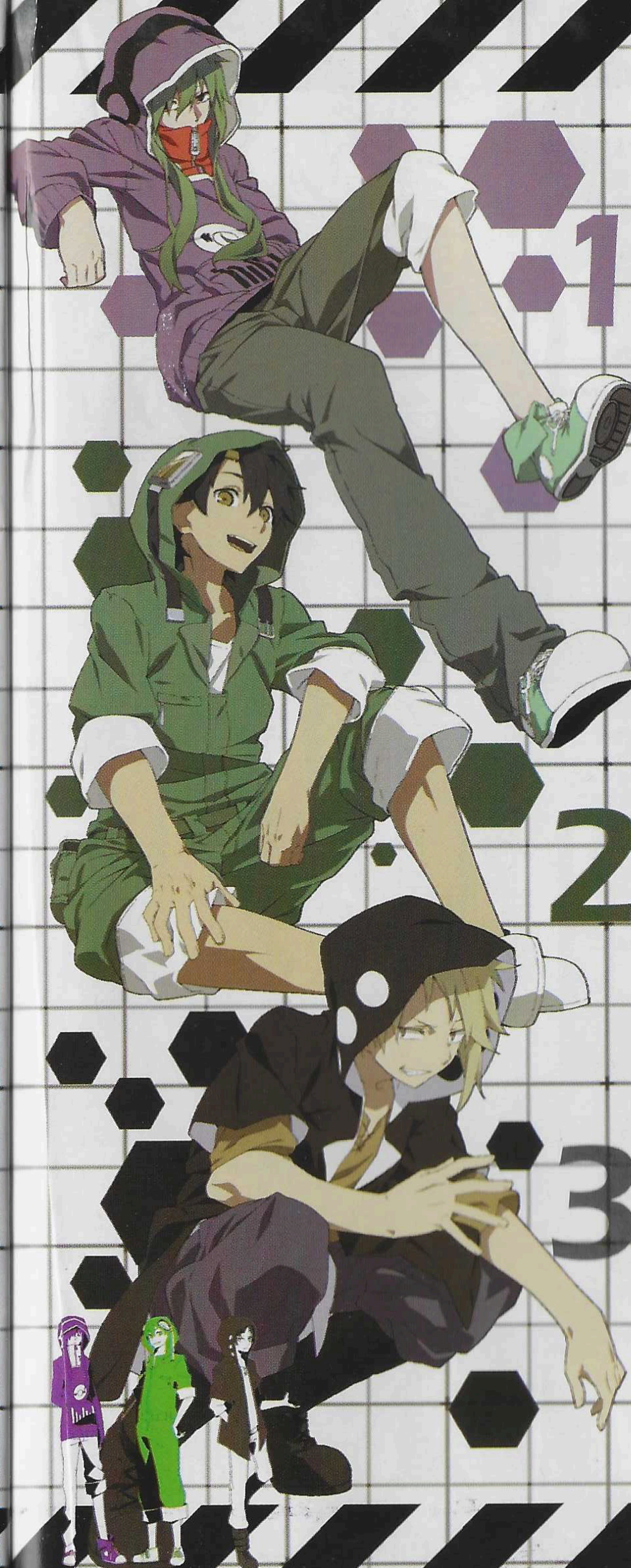
The Kagerou Project, also known as *Kagerou Daze*, is a series of Vocaloid (a singing voice synthesizer) songs created by Jin, who is also known as Shizen no Teki-P. The series has four novels and a manga adaptation, all of which connect the songs together.

The series became very popular on Niconico, a video sharing website, after the release of the song *Kagerou Daze*, giving the series its name. *Kagerou Daze* is the most popular song of the project, with over 3 million views. Four light novels, written by Jin and illustrated by Shidu, have been released while a fifth novel has been announced. The series also had a manga adaptation illustrated by Sato Mahiro, which began serialization on June 15, 2012.

Mekaku City Actors, an anime adaptation of the series began production on April 2014, directed by Akiyuki Shinbo and produced by Shaft. The anime has been consistently at the top of the charts and continues to be the most watched anime of this season.



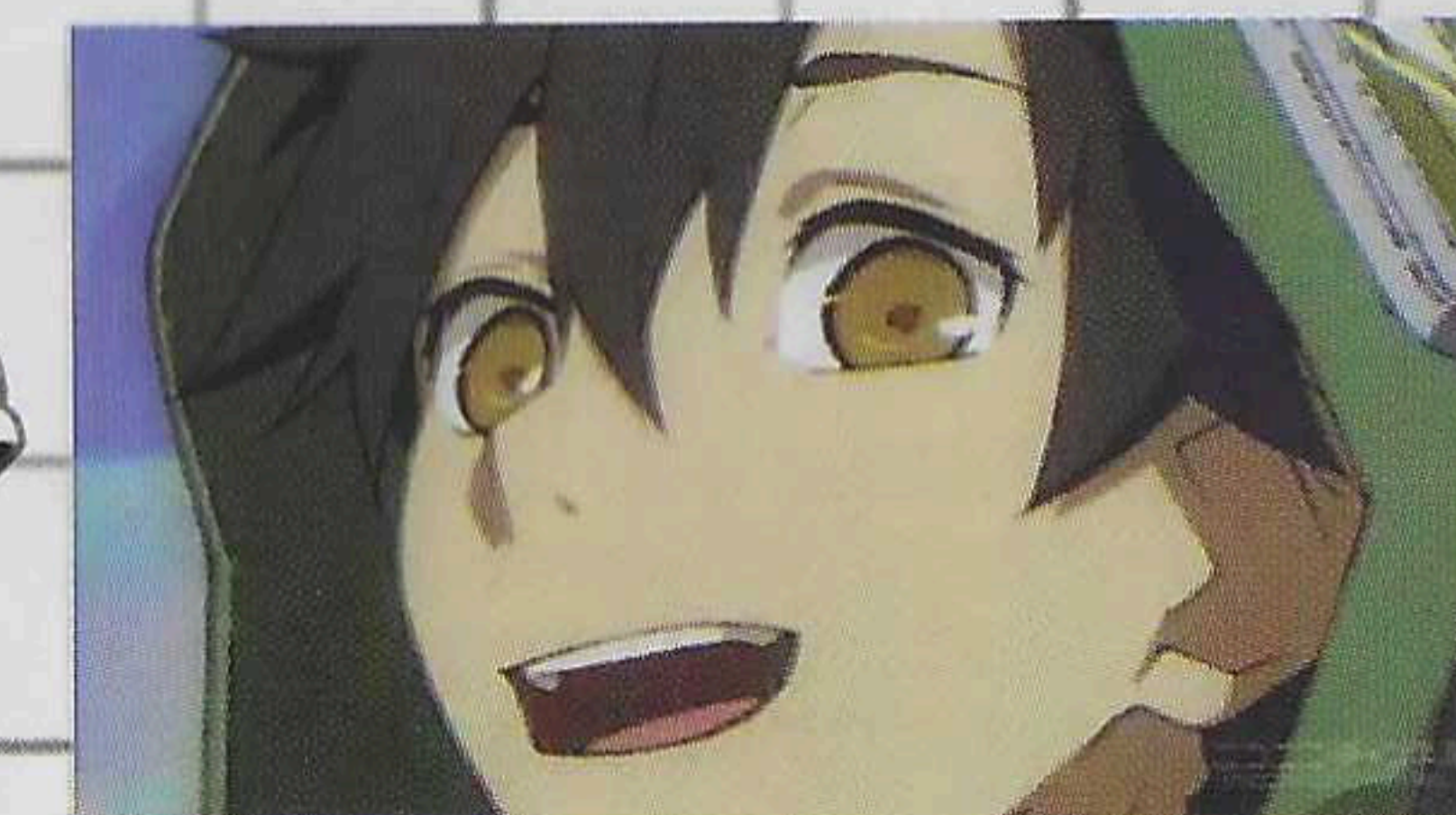
ACTORS



Tsubomi Kido is the leader of Mekakushi Dan. Due to her ambiguous appearance, she is often mistaken as a male. She is addressed by her last name even by her closest friends.

Song: "Mekakushi Code."

Eye ability: "Hiding One's Eyes" that will hide her presence, as well as the presence of anyone else within a two meter radius.



Kousuke Seto is often played as the "nice guy" and gets along well with Mary. Like Kano and Kido, he is addressed by his last name.

Song: "Shonen Brave."

Eye ability: "Stealing Eyes" that can read one's mind and information. He dislikes using his ability and rarely uses it.

Shuuya Kano is a deceitful young man, to the point where it's almost impossible to tell whether he's lying or not.

Song: "Yobanashi Deceive."

Eye ability: "Deceiving Eyes" which grants him to deceive how people around him perceive him and anything in immediate contact with him. However, he can only use it on himself.



4

Mary Kozakura is the first non-founding member. She is  $\frac{1}{4}$  Medusa, and appears to be 14 years old, but due to her gorgon blood, her actual age is 140 years old.

Songs: "Kuso Forest" and "Mary no Kaku Sekai."

Eye ability: "Paralysis" which can freeze/paralyze her enemy and "Combining Eyes" where she can combine all the snakes.

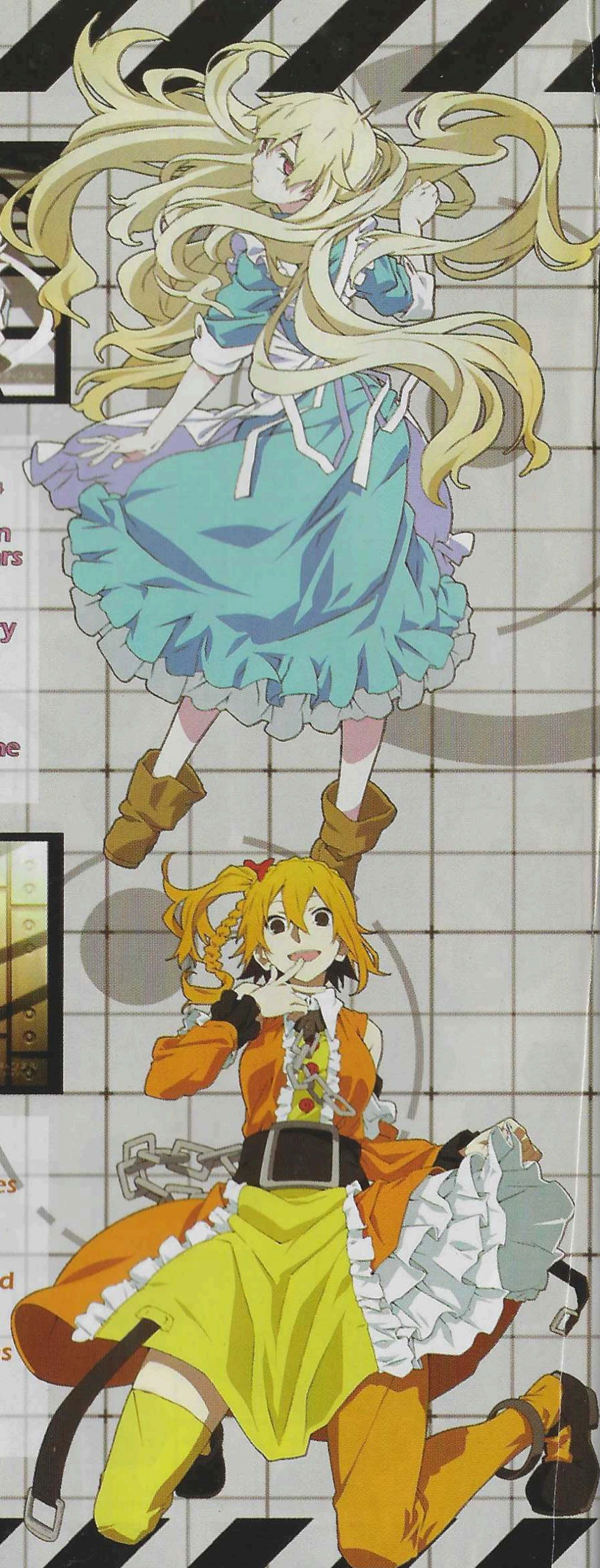


5

Momo Kisaragi is Shintaro's younger sister and is a popular idol. Unlike her brother, she does badly at school. She is has a clumsy yet cheerful personality.

Songs: "Kisaragi Attention" and "Otsukimi Recital."

Eye ability: "Eye Attention" has the ability to capture the attention of many regardless of their taste or interests.



6

Takane "Ene" Enomoto is a mischievous cyber girl who lives in Shintaro's computer, but also able to travel to other electronic devices.

Songs: "Jinzo Enemy," "Headphone Actor," "Ene no Denno Kiko," and "Yukei Yesterday."

Eye ability: "Opening Eyes" which gives her immortality and ability to transform.



7

Shintaro Kisaragi is very intelligent having an IQ of 168. While he was in school, his intelligence caused him to have an apathetic personality.

Songs: "Lost Time Memory" and "Toumei Answer."

Eye ability: "Favoring Eyes" allows him to see through the eyes of people outside the Heat Haze Days, however; this is only possible if the other person also possesses Red Eyes.







8

Hibiya Amamiya is mature for his age. He joins Mekakushi Dan after being spotted escaping the hospital he was at after an accident.

**Songs:** "Kagerou Daze" and "Otsukimi Recital."

**Eye ability:** "Eye Focusing" has the power to perceive object and details that are far away.



9

Haruka "Konoha" Kokonose has a large appetite while being a rather absent-minded individual, similar to his former human self.

**Songs:** "Konoha no Sekai Jijo," "Yukei Yesterday," "Outer Science" and "Summertime Record."

**Eye ability:** "Eye Awakening" the power of remaking his body into one of his ideals with a cause of his memories.



Ayano Tateyama is a happy-go-lucky girl with poor grades, possibly caused by family matters. She has an ability called "Favouring Eyes" but was not able to escape the Heat Haze.

**Song:** "Ayano no Kofuku Riron."



Mekakushi Dan  
"Blindfold Gang"

watch out for  
red eyes

Song list~



Jinzou Enemy

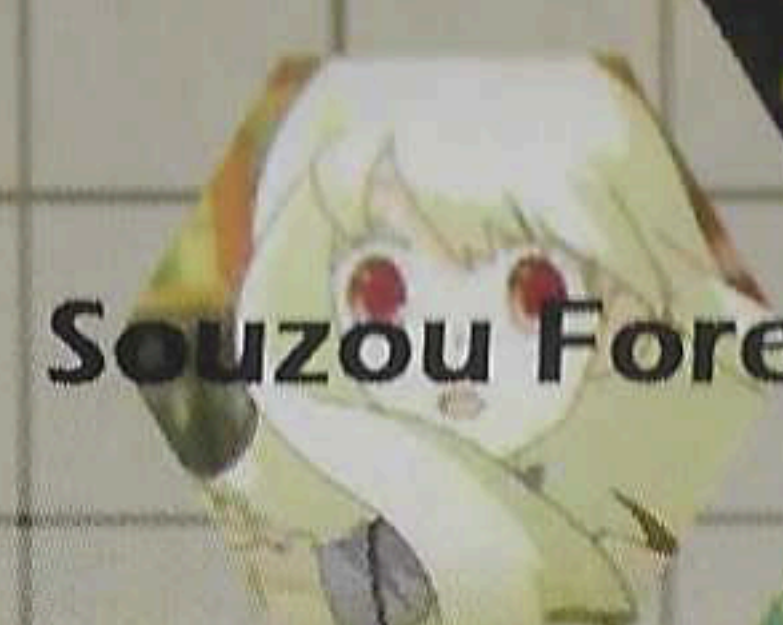
Mekakushi Code



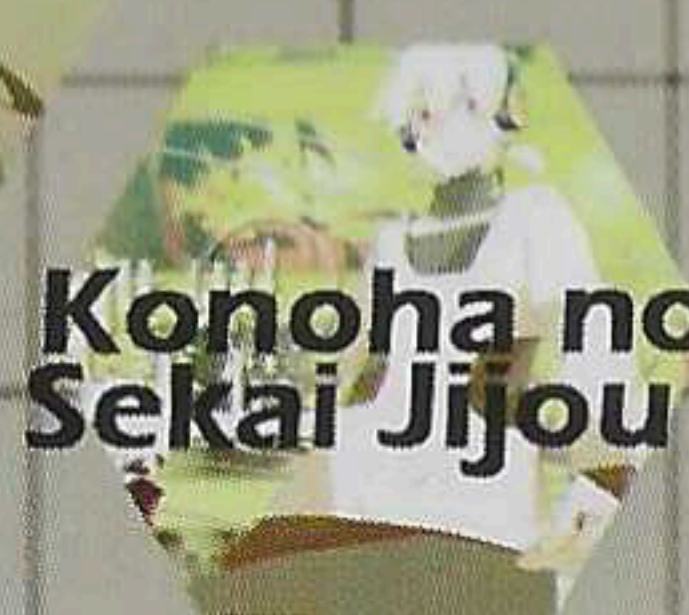
Kagerou Daze



Headphone Actor



Souzou Forest



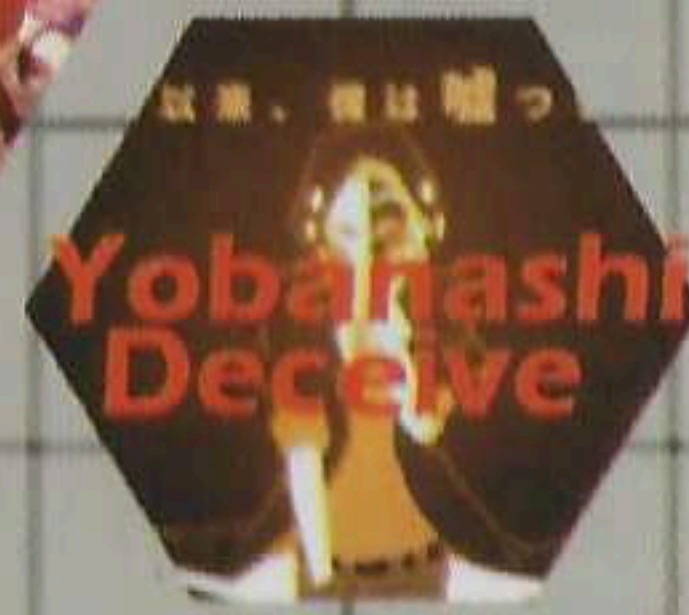
Konoha no  
Sekai Jijou



Kisaragi  
Attention



Children  
Record



Yobanashi  
Deceive

Get hooked with this amazing series! And while the anime adaptation is yet to come, we do know what to expect of it: a very interesting story plot filled with characters possessing different cool powers, with a bit of romance and comedy on the side!





## HOT ANIME



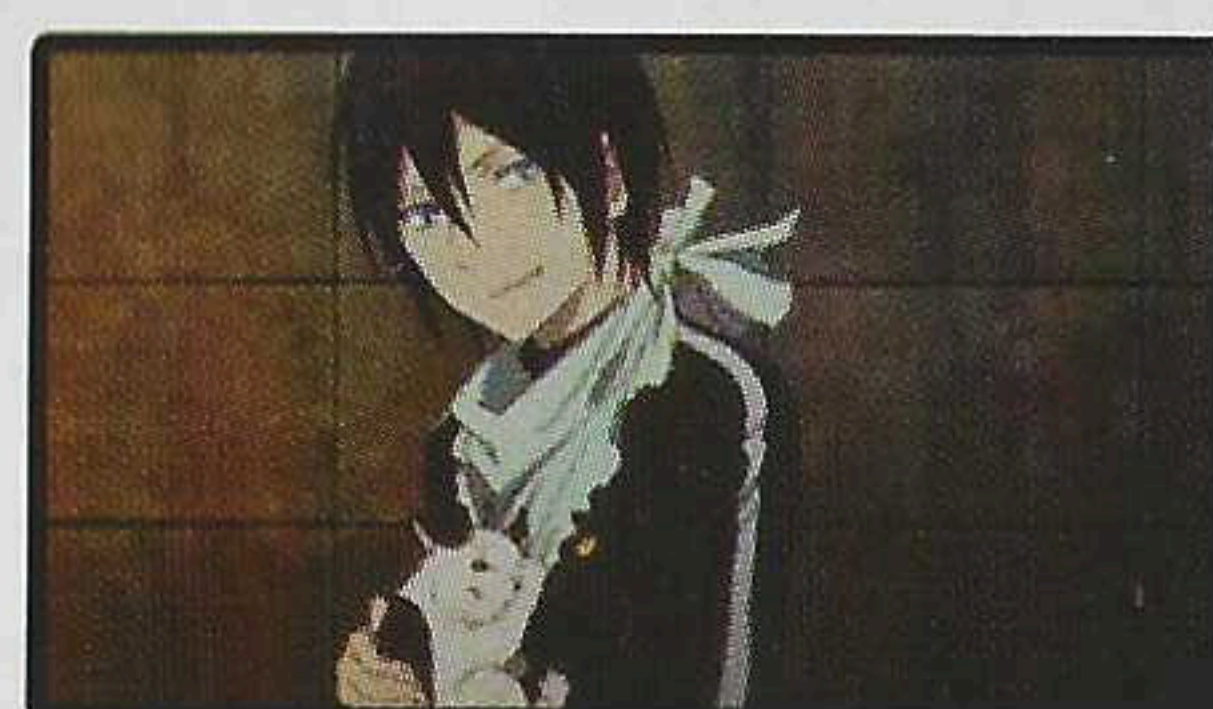
# Wishmaker for a Fee

by: John Robert Lim

Imagine a god. You might have thought of a very powerful being, perhaps all-powerful and master of the elements. How about someone who wears a scarf and jersey, granting wishes for a living? No? Let us introduce you to **Yato**, the penniless, and shrine-less god!

**Noragami** or "Stray God" is the story of **Yato**, a Japanese Kami, or god. His ultimate ambition: become a revered god and build an extravagant shrine for himself. However, he is poor, unknown and to make matters worse, he doesn't have a spirit weapon. Undaunted, he is willing to work for people for the cheap price of 5 yen. One of these errands would become the spark to start this adventure.

In the middle of a request to find a cat, he encounters **Hiyori Iki**, a middle school girl. Hiyori sees Yato about to get hit by a truck and attempts to save him; she pushes him away and takes the hit herself. She looks alright at the hospital only ending up with scratches and bumps but what she didn't know was that she's half-dead. She becomes stuck between the human realm and the afterlife. Now, she has to work together with Yato in order to get herself back to normal.



After a period of inactivity, **Noragami** marks the return of **Bones**, the anime studio responsible for blockbusters such as *Fullmetal Alchemist*. The show, an adaptation of Adachitoka's fantasy manga, began airing on January 2014, with 12 episodes. This adaptation also marks the J-Rock band **Hello Sleepwalkers**'s intro to performing music the anime world with "Goya no Machiawase".

## Characters

### YATO

Despite appearing as a laid-back and petty god, Yato is in fact hiding a dark and troubled past. He was once one of the more powerful and notorious gods in the world.



### HIYORI IKI

She was just an ordinary middle school girl with a heart for wrestling. After her encounter with Yato, she finds herself stuck between the human world and the afterlife, effectively making her a "half-phantom". She aids Yato's quest to become a great god in order to bring herself back to normal.



### YUKINE

A wandering spirit who takes the form of a teenage boy. Yukine is Yato's spirit weapon. Despite being subjugated, this spirit can still be quite a naughty brat towards Yato and Hiyori. This behavior might be a result of his envy towards humans. Upon being called into battle, he transforms into a katana.







**HOT ANIME**

written by: Philip

# Kanojo ga Flag wo Oraretara

What if you were given abilities to foresee the future, will you try to change your fate and control your life on your favour? If you were Sota Hatate, will you use this ability to predict the future and avoid unfavourable events?



Sota Hatate, a transfer student and a sole survivor on a sinking cruise ship named Premium Anberial. He has a precognitive ability where he can see the future of the people around him in a form of a flag on the top of their heads and thus he can "break" or change the fate of that person with his actions and decisions. He predicts that he will die soon and to change his fate, he has to assemble four specific people: a princess knight, a magician, a clergy and a shinobi.

Can he change his fate of death that is marked on his flag?



Kanojo ga Flag wo Oraretara is produced by Hoods Entertainment and adapted on the light novel series written by Toka Takei. The series started airing last April 6. The opening theme is "Cupido Review" by Aoi Yuuki and the ending theme, "Kanojo ga Flag wo Tateru Riyuu" performed by YELL.

## Characters

### Nanami Knight Blade Field

the 13th princess of Blade Field and serves as the "Princess Knight" in Sota's party. She doesn't raise a flag on his head when she introduces herself to Sota unlike the other girls. Later, she shows interest in Sota's ability and Sota marked her as his princess knight.



### Akane Mahougasawa

the granddaughter of the renowned Mahogawasa Foundation. When Sota met her, she bore a flag of friendship. Sota tried to break her friendship flag but her flag reforms every time, sometimes spouting more than one at a time. Because of this, Sota has marked her as his "Magician".

**Manga Adaptation**  
Date: Dec. 2011  
Volumes: 7

**Light Novel**  
Volumes: 8

### Kikuno Shokanji

an energetic, childhood friend of Sota. She always acts as an older sister to Sota. They are very close and she is seen to always care for Sota.

Overall, Kanojo ga Flag wo Oraretara is a very cute anime and must be added to your watch list this summer. Although it would seem like just another harem anime this season, the story actually revolves on Sota and his ability rather than the girls. The story is very interesting and the character design is perfectly good.

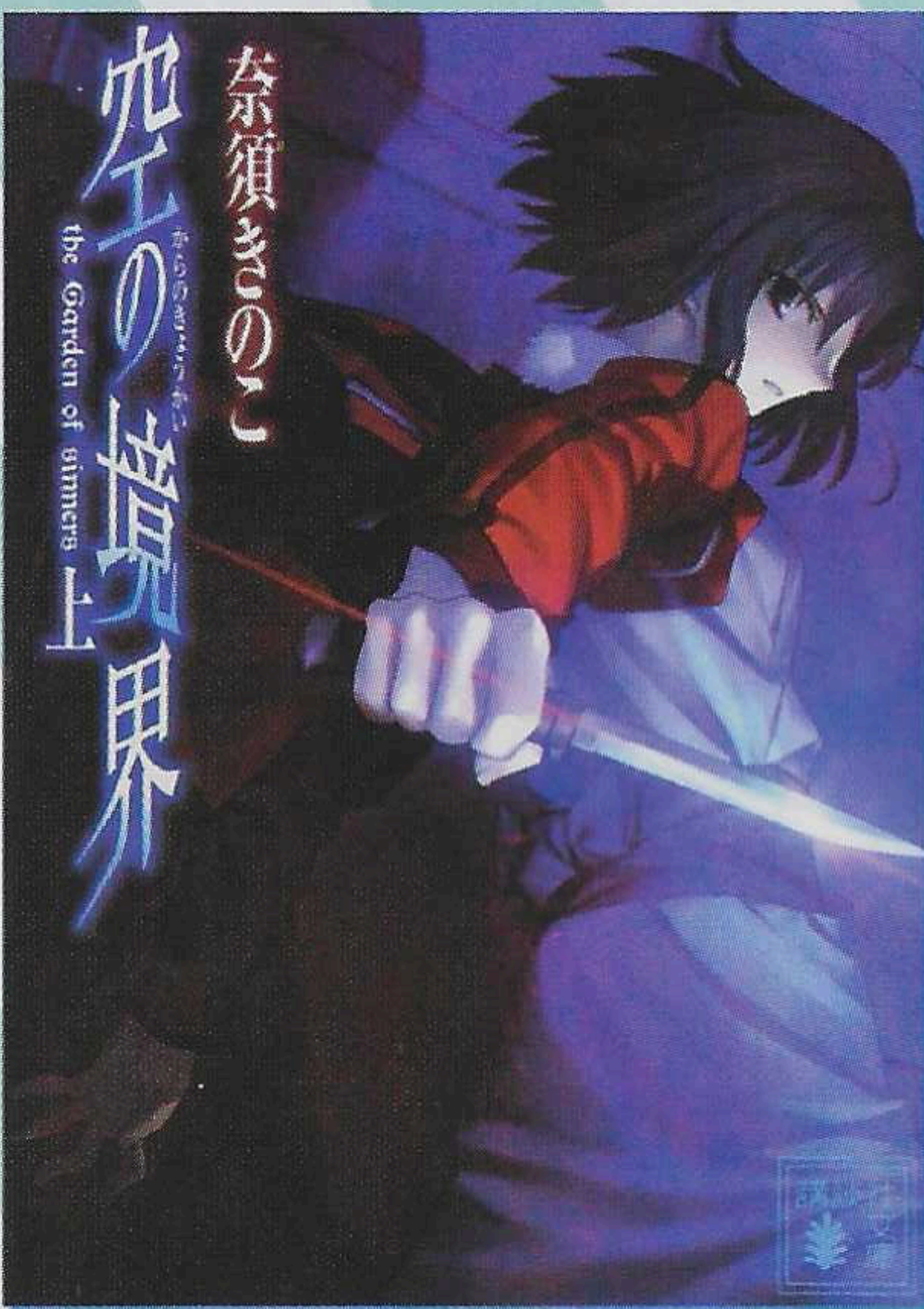
Stay tuned on Kanojo ga Flag wo Oraretara to follow Sota's mission, to change his friend's flags and to save himself from death.





## GOSPEL IN THE FUTURE

KARA NO KYOUKAI



In Mifune City, a professional mad bomber who calls himself Kuramitsu Meruka, is wreaking havoc. The criminal seems to possess a precognitive ability since all his jobs, though no victim was reported, has always been perfectly executed. Everything is going on the plan until he encountered a grave threat by the name of Shiki Ryougi. A sudden face-off between a serial bomber and a serial killer takes place and whoever emerges as the victor; the aftermath will most certainly not be a picture to remember.

The original story revolves around Shiki Ryougi, a mysterious girl that possesses Mystic Eyes of Death Perception which grants her the ability to perceive the death of all things and Mikiya Kokutou, who works as an assistant investigator. Mirai Fukuin, however, features the story of two psychics, Kuramitsu Meruka and Seo Shizune, with the ability to take a peek into the future. Both character shares different views regarding their ability but both their fate suddenly takes a rough twist when Meruka encounters Shiki while Kokutou meets Seo.

Kara no Kyoukai, commonly known as The Garden of Sinners is originally a light novel series composed of seven chapters and each chapter has been given a movie adaptation by ufotable panning from 2007 to 2009. Two years later, an OVA series was released as the story's epilogue, however, about 3 years had passed since then when a new film called Mirai Fukuin or Future Gospel was released as the series' distant finale which was originally a side story for the light novel.

The novel is written by Kinoko Nasu and is illustrated by Takashi Takeuchi, both from TYPE-MOON, even before they dabbled in the field of Visual Novels. Some of their famed works are Tsukihime and Fate/stay night, which some say are set in the same universe as Kara no Kyoukai while others regard them as an alternate parallel universe.

The film is certainly a must watch for every TYPE-MOON fan especially for those who've watched the previous movies. Fans that are just picking up the series and just recently added the film to their watch list, prior knowledge is not really necessary to enjoy the film, though there are some points that could cause confusion hence catching up from starting the first movie should be considered. Like the earlier films, Mirai Fukuin's theme song Alleluia is also performed by Kalafina. A side story entitle Mirai Fukuin - Extra Chorus has also been released along side the movie's blu-ray box.



## A SIDE OF ME ONLY YOU CAN SEE HORIMIYA

written by: Mikelle



A persona is also known as a façade that people create in order to adapt to society. An individual can have as many personas as they want and wear them around different people to effectively interact with them. However, wouldn't it feel refreshing to just drop the façade?

The title, Horimiya is a play on words combining the names of the main characters, Kyouko Hori and Izumi Miyamura. Both protagonists live a normal teenage life at school but transforms into completely different individuals outside of school. Hori seems like a normal student at school but acts like a doting parent to her younger brother since their parents are always busy at work. Miyamura looks like a nerd and is suspected as an otaku in school but the truth is he wears lots of piercing and has a bunch of tattoos.

They don't exactly take notice of each other at school, at least until one eventful day. Hori's younger brother is one day escorted home by a suspicious young man covered in piercing. Hori surprisingly recognized the young man as his classmate, Miyamura. They decided to keep each other's secret but continue to be friends after school.



Horimiya is originally a web comic called Hori-san and Miyamura-kun before it got serialized as a manga series by Monthly G Fantasy in 2011. Both works are written by HERO and the manga's art is illustrated by Daisuke Higawara. The manga is still ongoing and has released a total of four volumes. The web comic was also published as a book and is also adapted into an OVA in 2012 while a new OVA has been announced to be released in 2014.

Despite being a classic romance-comedy manga, Horimiya definitely provides a refreshing and hearth-warming feeling as you read through the pages filled with adorable yet funny circumstances. Follow Hori and Miyamura as they open up to each other and slowly discover the true meaning of friendship and also, perhaps a little bit of romance along the way.





**MANGA**

written by: Reikisha

# FEAR THE JOHJ

In the year 2077, humanity has set their sights on the planet Mars to make it their secondary home planet due to Earth's overpopulation. Scientists came up with a plan to terraform Mars by sending cockroaches and molds to the surface. Mars is expected to become inhabitable for humans in the future once the cockroaches die in an unfamiliar environment and serve as food for the mold.

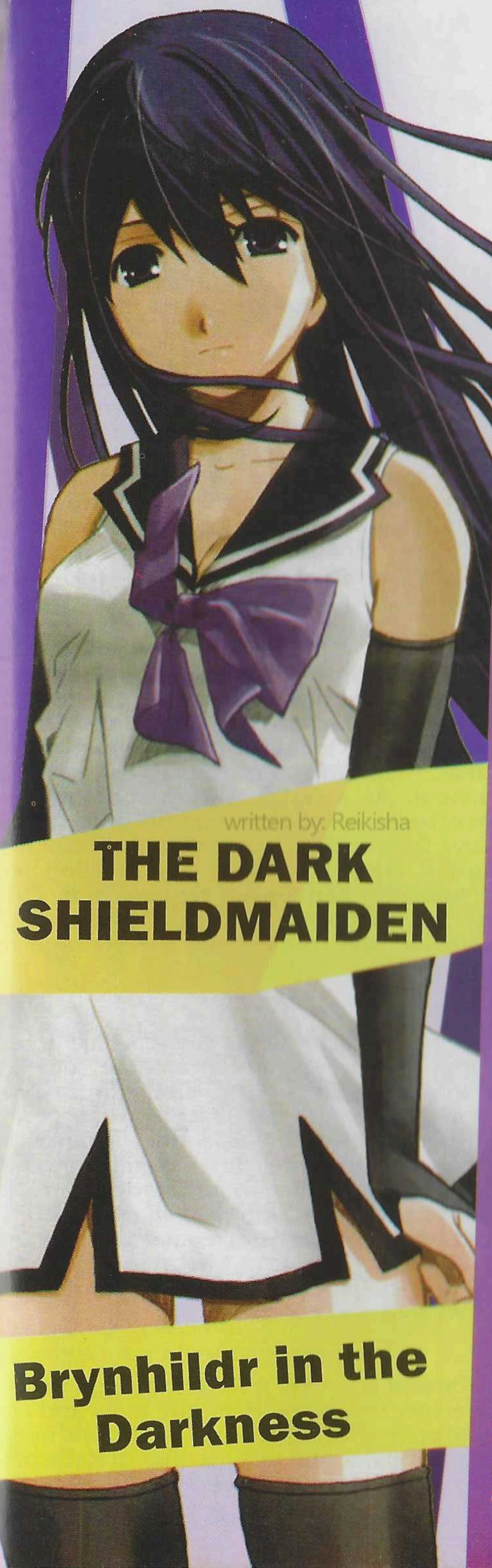
500 years later, a six-man crew was sent to Mars in order to see if the planet is finally ready for colonization. To their surprise, the cockroaches that were supposed to become mold food evolved into humanoid creatures with incredible physical strength and intelligence. The crews were immediately wiped out, but not after they inform Earth about the monsters. Now, humanity declared war against the humanoid cockroaches with the intention of claiming back Mars.

Will humanity succeed in their mission or will the cockroaches keep tainting Mars with a mountain of human corpses?

Kenichi Tachibana and Yu Sasuga's Terra Formars is an on-going sci-fi seinen manga serialized in Young Jump since 2011. An anime adaptation and OVA bundled with the latest volume of the manga is scheduled to be released sometime this year.

Most of the characters have a backstory, but they eventually end up getting brutally killed as if they're irrelevant to the story at all. Terra Formars also showed lack of knowledge about people from other countries that it had to rely on stereotyping when it comes to non-Japanese characters. The brutal and realistic artstyle greatly compliments with the manga's theme since most deaths are drawn to be as detailed as possible from the spurting blood to the visible entrails from a dismembered human corpse.

Even if there's little character development and story progress, Terra Formars is an entertaining manga where intense battles between humans and a superior being always resulted in gruesome deaths. It has lots of flaws to point at, but you shouldn't worry about that if you're simply looking for another gore-oriented manga to read.



written by: Reikisha

## THE DARK SHIELDMAIDEN

### Brynhildr in the Darkness

Ryouta Murakami has been tormented by the death of his childhood friend Kuroneko for 10 years. His traumatic experience motivated him to fulfill a childhood promise he made with her and worked hard to prove the existence of aliens. At the same time, Ryouta is left with the inability to communicate with and understand girls. One day, a transfer student who looks exactly like Kuroneko joined Ryouta's class.

Their meeting marks the beginning of an adventure filled with horror, magic, human experimentation and despair.

Brynhildr in the Darkness (Gokukoku no Brynhildr) is a spiritual successor to Lynn Okamoto's Elfen Lied. An on-going manga series that spawned 9 volumes as of April 2014 is serialized in Young Jump since 2012. The anime adaptation produced by VAP and Arms first aired on April 6 and is scheduled to have a total of 13 episodes.

Brynhildr in the Darkness contains a lot of Norse mythology references. The character Kuroha Neko is the story behind "Brynhildr", who serves as the shield for those people who are prophesied to die according to the person giving her orders via walkie-talkie. The concept of magic in the story is accompanied with technology as there's a device attached to a magic user's nape that serves as its primary source of magic. They are also administered with specific kind of drug to take every 36 hours.

The first episode of the series introduced two of the main characters and showed what they can do in a crisis that will become a normal occurrence in the future episodes. It also raised some questions regarding Kuroha's identity and the origin of her magic abilities. Since Brynhildr in the Darkness is created by Lynn Okamoto, it's expected that it will have the same story elements as Elfen Lied.

Despite the heavy presence of impending death on the following episodes, Brynhildr in the Darkness has a decent amount of humor and fan service that will sometimes make you forget that it's going to be a deathfest anime with scientifically-produced magical girls.





# MANGA

written by: Pam

Guilt is one of the reasons we change and we mend our mistakes in life. This guilt can be of lying, cheating or hurting someone. That is why; we would always want to change for the better.

Shoko Nishimiya, a girl with impaired hearing transfers to a new school, but her new classmates doesn't seem to be happy with her. Her deafness brought a lot of changes to the class; the teacher will have to slow down and speak louder and her classmates are expected to assist her. Ishida Shouya is one of Shoko's classmates who thinks that the world is boring. Little by little her classmates are having a hard time helping Nishimiya, so Shouya began to bully her and even broke her hearing aids.

One time, Shoko asked for Shouya to read her notebook for her, but instead of reading it he throws it at the pond. Shoko desperately looks for the notebook. After that, Nishimiya transfers to another school. As a result, Shouya became the new target of bullies even until graduation. Now, as a high school student he isolates himself. He is working to pay 2 million yen for breaking Nishimiya's hearing aids. One day, he happens to cross paths with Nishimiya. Will Ishida have the courage to face her?

Koe no Katachi or A Silent Voice is an on-going serialized manga on the Weekly Shounen Magazine. It is a drama, romance, school life, shounen and slice of life genre written and drawn by Yoshitoki Ooima. It received an award of the "Best Rookie Manga in 2008". The vector of the content made it difficult for publication on any manga magazine until it was picked up after months of legal dispute by the February edition of Bessatsu Shounen Magazine, where it won first place. The Japan Federation of Deaf has reviewed and supported this manga.

Koe no Katachi is a very heartfelt manga where we see the perspective of the deaf, the bully and the victim. This will open the hearts of many and will make us more aware of bullies and victims. Koe ni Katachi is a life changing manga that will keep you reading the next chapter.

written by: Pam



## Apocalyose no Toride

Fortress of the Apocalypse

What if you get mistaken for a murderer, can you imagine being a prisoner? Wearing prison clothes, locked up in a cell and interacting with the most dangerous inmates. Lucky for you outside the prison the zombie outbreak is in loose. Will you consider yourself lucky or not?

Maeda is a high school student who is falsely accused of murdering a man on the opposite side of his apartment. He is being held in the juvenile reformatory, Shouran Academy. As he goes to the reformatory, he is assigned to Cell 4. There he meets his roommates: Yoshioka Masafumi, Go Iwamura and Yamanoi "Noiman" Mitsuru. Meanwhile outside the prison, chaos spreads; people have started to bite or eat each other. They are saying that it was a disease that created these monsters.

The reformatory has yet to learn about the 'disease' so when Maeda notices a human ear that fell out of the sky, he was confused. Suddenly a police van crashes into the reformatory carrying people covered in blood. But before they could get medical treatment, the passengers started attacking the guards. What will the inmates do in this situation?

*Apocalyose no Toride* or *Fortress of the Apocalypse* is an action, adventure, horror, mystery, psychological, sci-fi, shounen and tragedy manga written by Yuu Kuraishi and drawn by Kazuhiro. It is an on-going manga serialized in *Shonen Rival* (Kodansha) with current total of 30 chapters.

This zombie apocalypse revolves around the survivors from the jail. Not only do they need to survive to the zombies, but also to the most vicious criminals is in the prison. Survival of the fittest! Will they ever know the source of this chaos? Find out for yourselves. Read *Apocalyose no Toride* now.





COVER FEATURE

# Saki: ZENKOKU-HEN

by: Reikisha



Many teams all over Japan have struggled in the regional tournament, but only the strongest team among them will be given a chance to compete in the nationals. Now, the teams are slowly gathering in Tokyo to compete in the biggest stage for every mahjong player in the country.

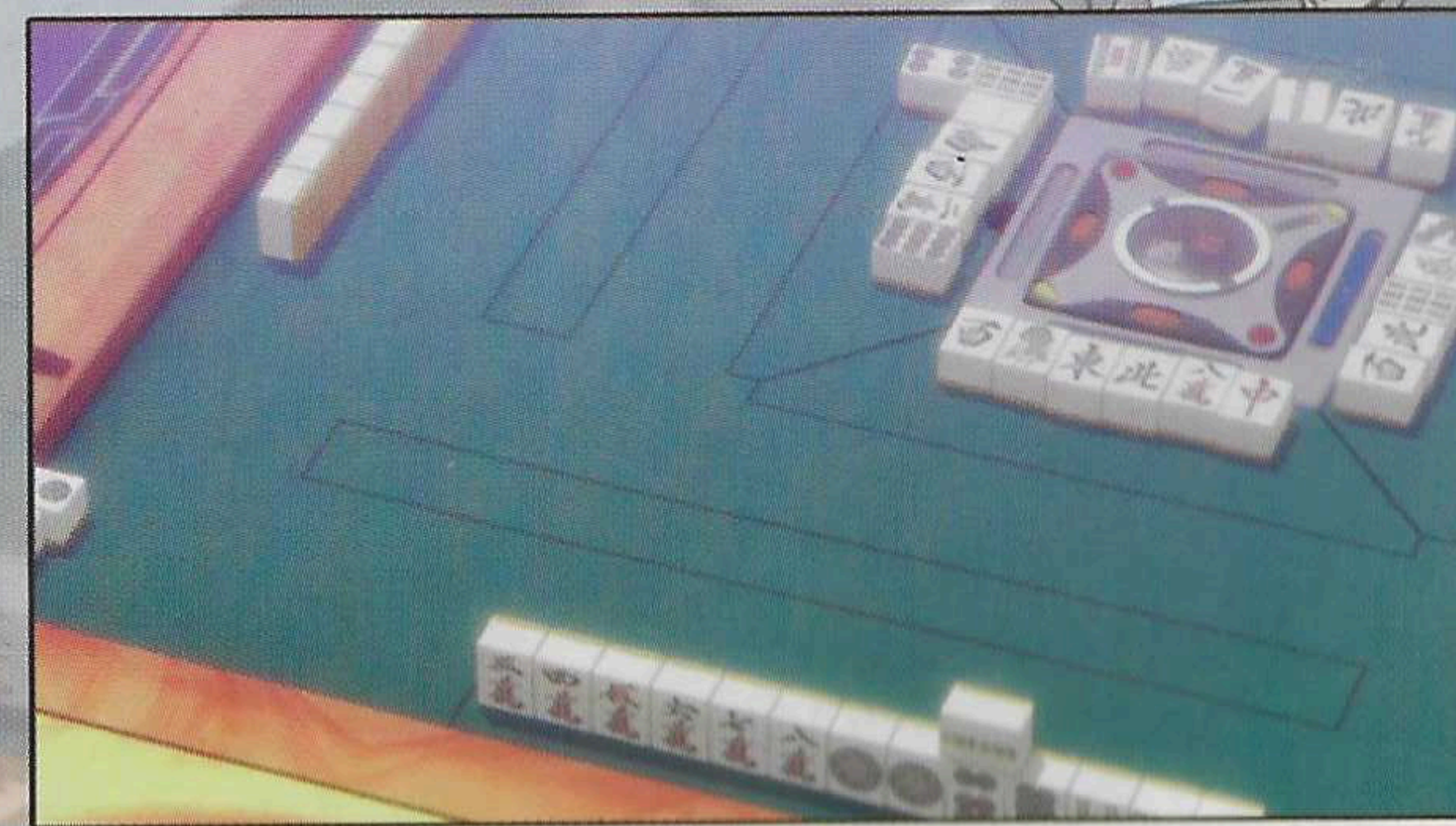
With Kiyosumi representing Nagano, Saki Miyayama now has a chance to meet her sister. But in order to do so, their team must keep winning until they face Shiraitodai in the finals. To make things worse, Kiyosumi is grouped with Himematsu, Eisui and Miyamori in their first match which makes reaching the finals a very difficult goal.

After conquering the regional tournament in Nagano, the girls from Kiyosumi High are now setting their sights on winning the Nationals in Saki: Zenkoku-hen.



Saki: Zenkoku-hen is a 13-episode anime series following the events of the Nagano tournament from the first season. The story centers around various female high school teams with special abilities competing in a mahjong tournament.

## MAHJONG IN SAKI



The characters in Saki plays a Japanese variation of mahjong called "riichi mahjong". Riichi mahjong is a very popular sport worldwide where people compete for rank and the opportunity to become professionals. In addition to the Japanese-styled mahjong gameplay, players like Saki have **special abilities** that defies common sense—to which Nodoka refers as "superstitions". Along with their special abilities, the player's psychological state and personality greatly affects their plays.

Mahjong is like a card game using 3 suits with an additional group of tiles called **honors**. Each player starts with the same number of points, and in order to get higher points, players must take points from their opponents by developing a hand or trick them by playing into their hand. As for developing hands, players must achieve **tenpai**, which puts them in a position to score their hand by a **draw (tsumo)** or other player's discards (**ron**). Declaring a **riichi** is only possible when they achieved tenpai with closed hands. Players must have some form of **yaku** in order to win a hand.

To summarize, mahjong is a game where players try to score points while trying to avoid losing some as much as possible and eventually taking the lead with a higher score than the rest of the players.



# KIYOSUMI HIGH



The Kiyosumi High Mahjong Club was just a nameless club until they managed to beat the possible contenders for representing Nagano. If fighting on par with Kazekoshi, Tsuruga and Ryuumonbuchi was not surprising enough, earning the spot for the Nationals got the attention of their rival teams.

## Yuuki Kataoka

(CV: Rie Kugimiya)



One of the first year members of the Kiyosumi High Mahjong Club positioned as the **vanguard** in the tournament. Yuuki's love for **tacos** and anything that has the word "taco" on it gave birth to the superstition that she can give her best as long as she gets to eat tacos. In conjunction to Yuuki's "taco power", played much better during the East Wind round where she almost always starts as the dealer and score large amount of points in the game.

Yuuki's performance completely drops in the South Wind round, her playstyle in the early game allows her to distance herself from the rest of the players in the table and secure the lead for her team. She usually kept her hands closed and declares riichi, resulting in an expensive hand, but ever since she participated in the Nationals, Yuuki learned how to win cheaper but faster hands by calling chii or pon.



## Mako Someya

(CV: Ryouko Shiraishi)



Mako is positioned as the **sergeant** in their team and the only second year in their club. She joined their school's mahjong club on her first year. Mako's special ability, called "**Spindle Territory**", is a result of being exposed to mahjong from an early age due to her grandfather owning a mahjong parlor. By removing her glasses, she can remember past games and use it as reference in order to help her win by reading the opponent's hand.

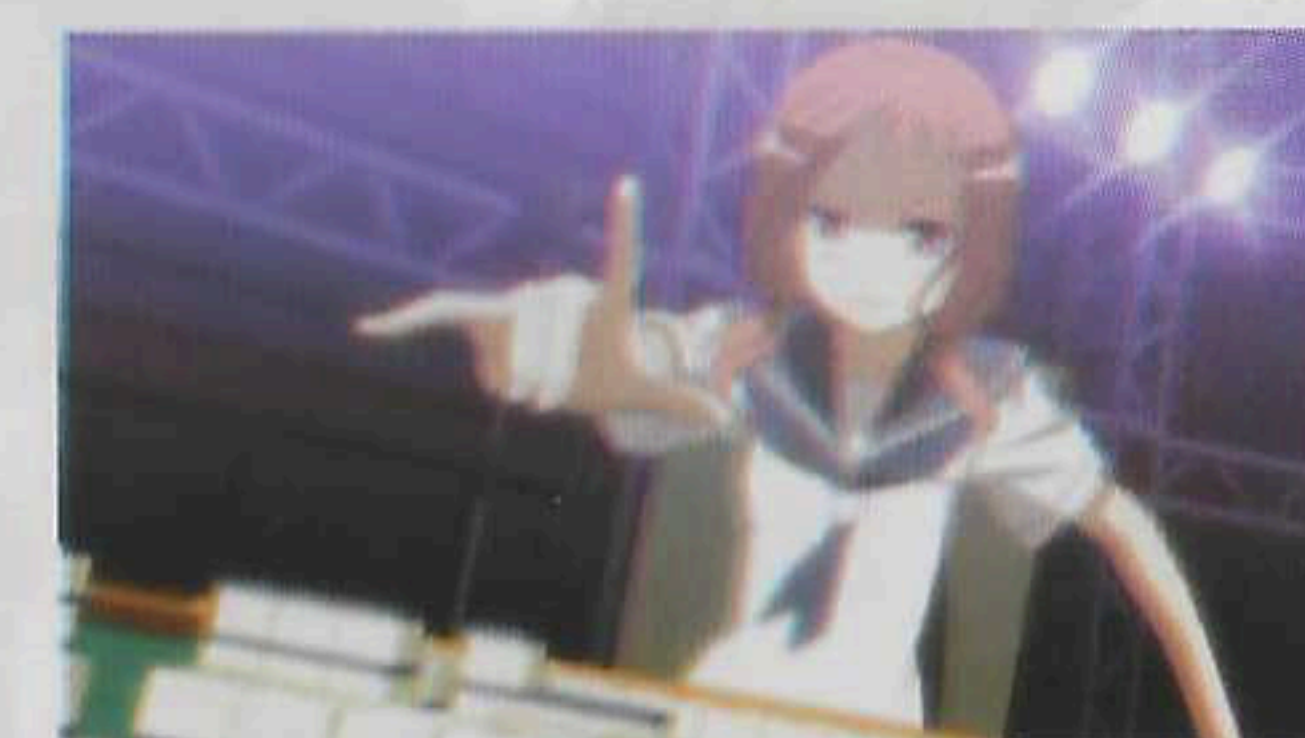
She is also capable of making confusing discards and calls to deceive her opponents and rarely declares riichi, but when she does, she usually wins. However, Mako's ability became useless against beginners like Kaori Senoo from Tsuruga since she barely witnessed any beginner level matches.



## Hisa Takei (CV: Shizuka Itou)

Third year student at Kiyosumi High and is the **President** of the mahjong club as well as the President of the school's student congress. In the tournament, Hisa is positioned as the **lieutenant** in their lineup. Hisa possesses the traits of a good leader and is very caring to her teammates. Her playstyle revolves around leading her opponents to fall for her traps and collaborating with other players to take down the most dangerous player in their table.

Her main skill, however, is winning a hand by relying on bad waits. The reason why she do so is because she simply feels like winning with it. While Hisa seems to be playing a rational style of mahjong, winning by bad waits is like playing mahjong under a superstition.



## Nodoka Haramura

(CV: Ami Koshimizu)



The **vice-captain** of the team and a first year member of the Kiyosumi High mahjong club. She reigned as a champion during her middle school years in the individual mahjong tournament. She always carries a penguin doll named "**Etopen**" to give her a sense of calmness when playing mahjong.

Nodoka's playstyle is akin to internet mahjong where she can quickly and efficiently rack up points as fast as possible. Her special ability—"Nodocchi mode", is named after her screen name in the online mahjong game. When in Nodocchi mode, Nodoka sees the mahjong table digitally and ignores other players' presences in the game. She can also make plays with a super computer-like mental processing.



(CV: Kana Ueda)

## Saki Miyanaga

The titular character of the series. Saki is the **captain** of the team, where she usually plays with monster-tier players from their rival schools. Before, she used to play mahjong by maintaining a  $\pm 0$  score as a result of her family members getting angry at her for winning every game. This also caused Saki to dislike mahjong and got separated to Teru, who she once had a close relationship with.

Her special move is "**Rinshan Kaihou**" or tsumo after a kan. With it, Saki can win hands when she isn't in tenpai at the start of her turn. This move is supported by her enhanced ability to get kans and making last hand comebacks. Lastly, Saki's  $\pm 0$  is actually a form of score manipulation to ensure her win.





# ZENKOKU TEAMS

## Achiga Girls' Academy

The team from Nara is known for defeating Bansei Academy, the prefecture's perennial mahjong powerhouse. When Shizuno Takakamo saw Nodoka win the middle school national league, it triggered the desire to revive the Achiga mahjong club and gathered her friends, Ako Atarashi and Kuro Matsumi in order to revive it and meet Nodoka in the nationals.



### Team Roster:

- Vanguard – Kuro Matsumi
- Sergeant – Yuu Matsumi
- Lieutenant – Ako Atarashi
- Vice-Captain – Arata Sagimori
- Captain – Shizuno Takakamo



## Eisui Girls' High School

Representing Kagoshima is Eisui Girls' High School, where all of the members are dressed in miko attire and stay in solemn rooms during competitions. It is said that they are the strongest team from the Kyushu region. Eisui's mahjong club members consist of girls from the branch families related to Komaki Jindai.

### Team Roster:

- Vanguard – Komaki Jindai
- Sergeant – Tomoe Karijuku
- Lieutenant – Haru Takimi
- Vice-Captain – Hatsumi Usuzumi
- Captain – Kasumi Iwato



## Himematsu High School

Himematsu from South Osaka is hailed as one of the five strongest teams in the nationals. If not for the emergence of Eisui Girls' High School in the previous tournament, Himematsu would still be in the top 4 schools seeded into the tournament's second round. They are also one of the strongest teams in the Kansai region along with Senriyama Girl's High School from North Osaka.

### Team Roster:

- Vanguard – Suzu Ueshige
- Sergeant – Yuuko Mase
- Lieutenant – Hiroe Atago
- Vice-Captain – Kinue Atago
- Captain – Kyouko Suehara



## Miyamori Girls' High School

Miyamori originally have three members until Toshi Kumakura decided to bring Toyone Anetai into the team and Aislinn Wishart joined after watching the team play. They are Iwate prefecture's representative for the nationals.

### Team Roster:

- Vanguard – Shiromi Kosegawa
- Sergeant – Aislinn Wishart
- Lieutenant – Kurumi Kakura
- Vice-Captain – Sae Usuzawa
- Captain – Toyone Anetai

## Shiraitodai High School



### Team Roster:

- Vanguard – Teru Miyanaga
- Sergeant – Sumire Hirose
- Lieutenant – Takami Shibuya
- Vice-Captain – Seiko Matano
- Captain – Awai Oohoshi

Shiraitodai of West Tokyo became a national champion for two straight years. If they managed to win the tournament for the third time, Teru Miyanaga will be the first person to become a national champion in all three years of her high school life. Their school has multiple teams which compete within their school and the winning team gets chosen to represent Shiraitodai in the nationals.

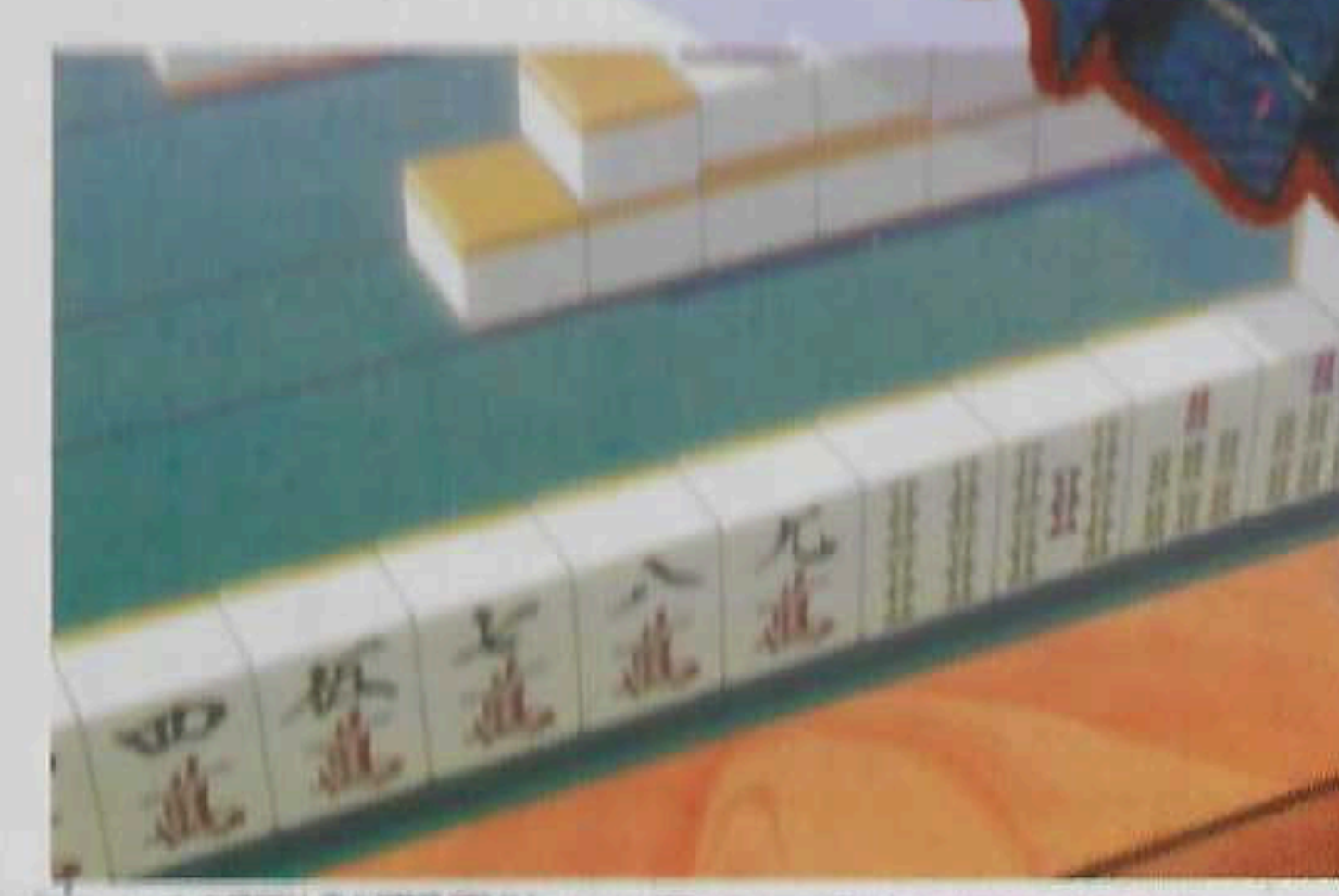


## REVIEW

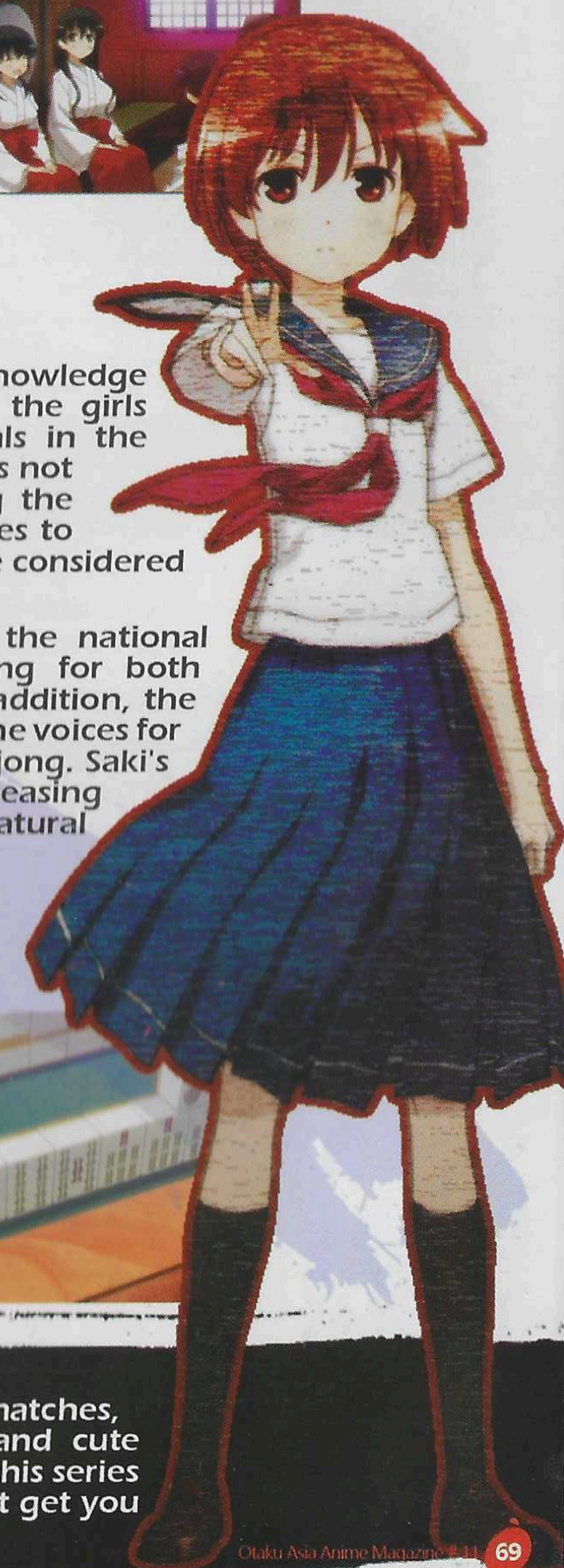
Saki can be enjoyed even if the viewer has little knowledge about mahjong. Saki is a light-hearted story about the girls playing mahjong and eventually meeting their rivals in the tournament arcs. Although there are drama scenes, it's not that heavy compared to most sports anime. During the games, some of the players utilize their special abilities to give them an edge against other players which can be considered as supernatural occurrences in the table.

The huge cast of high school girls competing in the national mahjong tournament is what made Saki interesting for both mahjong enthusiasts and ordinary viewers alike. In addition, the series has an all-star cast of popular seiyuus providing the voices for the high school girls in the competitive world of mahjong. Saki's artstyle will surely attract the viewers with its pleasing character designs and visuals that makes the supernatural part of mahjong very exciting to watch.

The production staff responsible for Saki: Zenkoku-hen are returning staff members who also worked on its prequel and side story series.



Saki: Zenkoku-hen is a sports anime full of exciting matches, unexpected developments and supernatural skills and cute girls. If you think that mahjong is a very boring game, this series will change your view of the game and perhaps might get you hooked!







## REVIEWS

written by: Mikelle

# 棺姫のチャイカ

HITSUGI NO CHAIKA

Toru Acura is a former Saboteur or an ex-soldier that retired after the collapse of the Gazu Empire who were known as the warriors of the North. He now leads a lazy every-day life, much to her adopted sister's demise. Akari keeps persuading Toru every day to work and earn them some food.

One day, wandering within a nearby forest in search of something to eat, Toru encountered a little lady named Chaika Trabant, who carries a coffin on her back. Chaika turns out to be a wizard that wields a magical sniper rifle inside the coffin, and is haunted by her dark past.



The siblings are now employed by Chaika, who believes that they are destined to have met each other. The siblings are renowned for their expert fighting capabilities and possess a skill called Iron Blood which transforms their bodies into lethal weapons.

## Haunted by the Shadows of the Past



Hitsugi no Chaika or Coffin Princess Chaika is a fantasy light novel series written by Sakaki Ichirou and illustrated by Namaniku ATK. The novel's serialization started back in 2010 which was published by Fujimi Shobo and was soon adapted into a manga series in 2011, followed by a 4-koma manga in the same year before getting an anime adaptation this 2014.



Hitsugi no Chaika is also Ichirou Sakaki's second work that will get an anime adaptation, the first being *Scrapped Princess* which was also positively received worldwide. Fans of Sakaki's works will definitely enjoy watching this series that features a new age of swords and magic. Follow the protagonists as they face their past in order to pave a path for the future, and find out that nothing is ever too late in Hitsugi no Chaika.

# Recipe for Marriage

written by: Mikelle



Countless individuals have yearned for marriage and matrimony that comes almost once in a lifetime, however, let's not be hasty and first talk about what comes before marriage; the engagement.

Engagement or betrothal is the period of time between a marriage proposal and marriage between a fiancée and fiancé. The couples are usually introduced to each other at a young age or have met each other through different circumstances. There is also a one in a million chance where you'll wake up one day and suddenly gets introduced to your fiancé. Sounds fishy? An ordinary girl called Kobeni thinks so as well, until one day.....

Kobeni Yonomori leads a normal and uneventful high school life and believes that she will continue to do so; at least that's what she thought until she woke up on her sixteenth birthday. Right after receiving a heart-warming birthday cake from her sister Benio, Kobeni was suddenly introduced by her mother to Hakuya Mitsumine, Kobeni's soon-to-be husband. With Hakuya, along with his sister Mashiro, they moved to the Yonomori

household. Will Kobeni be able to adapt to the sudden turn of events and accept Hakuya as her betrothed?

*Mikakunin de Shinkoukei*, translated as "Engaged to the Unidentified", is a romance-comedy anime that premiered during the winter 2014 season. The series was adapted from a 4-koma manga by Cherry-ai that serialized in *Ichijinsha* in 2009. The anime's opening theme *Tomadai Recipe* and ending theme *Masshiro World* is performed by Kobeni, Benio and Mashiro's voice actresses respectively.

The story revolves around the four main characters as they ascertain their roles in each other's lives. Unexpected plot twist and revelations from the past resurfaces as the story progress which adds spice to Kobeni and Hakuya's romance.

Will it be smooth sailing from here on out? Pick up his series and add it to your watch list and have a slice of this engagement with the unidentified.





## REVIEWS

# 世界征服

謀略のスライスター

written by: Philip

Sekai Seifuki ~Bouryaku no Zvezda~

Kate Hoshimiya or so called Venera the great/Lady Venera has a mission: to conquer the world. Founding the organization called Zvezda, she will implement her plan with the help of an innocent, middle school boy Austa Jimon on the World Conquest she calls as Zvezda Plot.

The main character, Austa Jimon ran away from home and wanders around the street during the night due to some problems and met Kate Hoshimiya. Austa thinks her world conquest as a simple flight of fancy; he walks and plays along with Kate until he joined to Zvezda Organization.

**Plotting... to conquer the world?!**

The world conquest plot will be implemented with the help of other members, Itsuka Shikabane (known as Lady Planya), Natalia Vasylenko (also known as Professor Um), Yasubee "Yasu" Morozumi, Goro Shikabane, the father of Itsuka and known as General Pepel and a robot named Roboko. However, the Japanese government has contracted an organization called the White Light to stop Zvezda.

Sekai Seifuki ~Bouryaku no Zvezda~ translated as "World Conquest ~Zvezda of Intrigue~" is produced by A-1 Pictures and directed by Tensai Okamura. It was written by Okamura and Meteor Hoshizora of the Japanese game company Type-Moon. Kate Hoshimiya was voiced by Misaki Kuno and Asuta Jimon is voiced by Natsuki Hanae.

The 12 episode series were aired from January 12 and ended on March 29. This action, fantasy and comedy themed series have a smooth and naturally-cute art that would attract the otaku fans out there. People think that this planned conquest is a mere dream by a little girl but you will have to see for yourself.

If you also have a plan on conquering the world, try Sekai Seifuki ~Bouryaku no Zvezda~ and you may just succeed.

# ハイキュー!!

Haikyuu!!

written by: Pam



Volleyball drove Shoyo Hinata to change his life and be the best volleyball player just like his role model, the team champion's star player who's nicknamed "Small Giant." Will the beginner be able to stand until the championship and achieve his dream of following the footsteps of his idol?

Shoyo, who is gotten his interest on volleyball after seeing a national championship match on TV aimed to become a star player, and started his footsteps on the career in volleyball by establishing a volleyball club. His never taught of his height as a handicap on the sports and train hard every day until his club grows into five members. They've joined the middle school volleyball tournament and defeated by one of the favorited teams in the championship, the Karasuno High volleyball club. Since their defeat, Shoyo vowed to stand again and surpass Kageyama on the next championship.

Haikyuu!!, directed by Mitsunaka Susumu started airing on April 6, 2014. The series is an anime adaptation of the shonen manga series written and illustrated by Haruichi Furudate. The series already aired 3 episodes, and an upcoming episode 4 will be air on April 27, 2014.

This is not the typical training-match-training-match type of story as it focuses a lot on the players, their background stories and their development in the games or matches. The design and background has the same quality of other sports-themed anime but it is a lot more lively and the anime is recommended to those who loves playing volleyball. So to volleyball fans and players out there, be sure to check this out and be inspired by Shoyo's will and determination to be on top.







written by: Philip

## selector

infected  
WIXOSS



Selector infected WIXOSS (pronounced "wi-cross") tells the story about Ruko Kominato, who receives a WIXOSS deck from her brother, and discovers that her Lrig can speak, and later she named it Tama. Wish Across or WIXOSS for short is a popular trading card game in which players battle against each other with fighters known as Lrgis, using cards to support them.

Ruko discovered that she is chosen as a "Selector" and she is obliged to fight other selectors for her to grant her wish. The victorious's wish will be granted, and to those who losses, their wish will not be granted and lose all memory of the game.

The anime is produced by J.C. Staff and started airing from April 3, 2014. The series already aired 3 episodes, and the next episode will be air on April 24.

The anime focus more on psychological and tactical strategies. Try watching Selector infected Wixoss and you may get hooked on this newest card game.

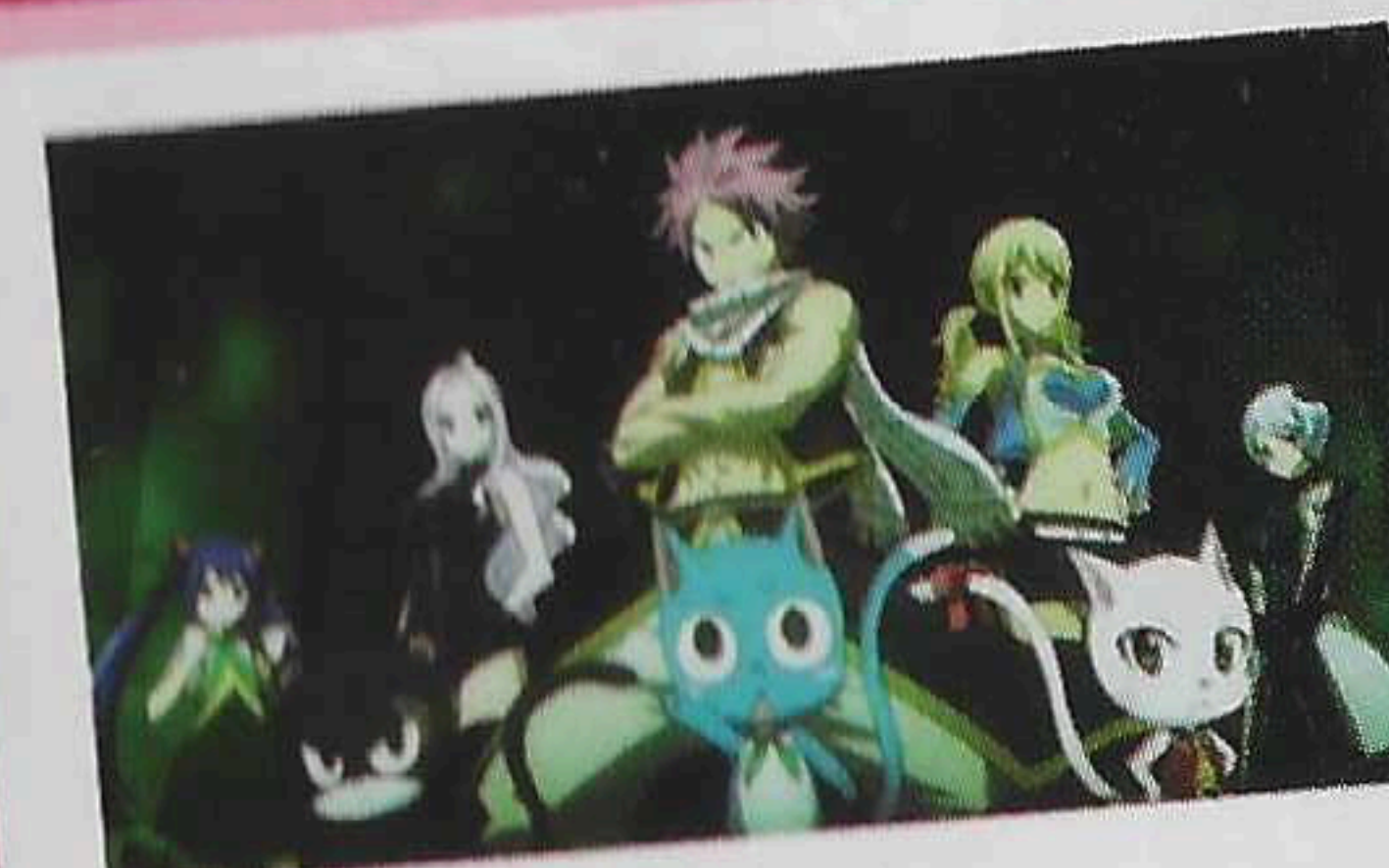
## FAIRY TAIL 2014

written by: Philip



Fairy Tail (2014), directed by Shinji Ishihira (directed Log Horizon) from studios A-1 Pictures and Bridge started airing since April 5 on TV Tokyo. Character Designer Shinji Takeuchi retain the character designs of the first release.

The new series is the rerun of the anime Fairy Tail that ended on March 30, 2013. The story is continued and some minor improvements were observed like some character designs and implement the other arcs based on the original manga.



Continue watching your favourite Fairy Tail and join forces with the fairy tail guild and look forward for more upcoming arcs.





HOT ANIME

# DATE A LIVE II



Last year, we met an ordinary boy has the power to calm down a spirit that causes chaos in this world. This boy will once again prove himself up to the challenge to calm down the remaining spirits by dating them.



**Shido Itsuka** an ordinary high school boy who, together with his sister, **Kotori Itsuka**, **Tohka**, **Yoshino** with her cute rabbit puppet **Yoshinon** and the **Ratatoskr** is back!

**Yamai**, the Berserk is a sister duo spirits namely **Kaguya** and **Yuzuru Yamai** who're known for fighting each other that brings up storms.

The Witch and The Diva, **Miku Izayoi** is a songstress who is able to manifest a beautiful voice to enchant everyone.

**Date a Live 2** or **Date a live season 2** is comedy, mecha, romance, school, sci-fi and shounen all into one! Produced by **AIC Plus+**, **Nippon Columbia** and **Production IMS**, the anime is 24 minutes per episode and scheduled to have 10 total episode overall.

If season one left you hanging, the second season will introduce you to new characters, new enemies, new struggles and surprises as well as the quirky moments of Shido with the gang. Watch **Date a Live 2** and find a new tactic to win a girl's heart.







REQUEST

# Ginban Kaleidoscope

Have you ever encountered someone who sparked a change in your life? **Tazusa Sakurano** met one and was literally attached to him because he is a ghost. Discover Tazusa's journey as an ice skater and her fateful meeting with her ghost friend in **Ginban Kaleidoscope**.



**Tazusa Sakurano** is a 16-year old Japanese figure ice skater. Known for her sharp tongue, she believes her beauty is worth 10 billion dollars. While performing at the **Women Figure Skating Grand Prix**, she stumbled and landed badly that it resulted in losing the competition.



Meanwhile, a Canadian boy named **Pete Pumps** was performing an aerial stunt when his plane crashes and he dies. After the event, Tazusa starts hearing voices and finds out that Pete's ghost is involuntarily residing in her body. At first, Tazusa hates the fact that she has Pete's ghost but she gradually accepts his presence. Tazusa continues on to improve her skating in order to be selected for the Olympics while Pete gives her help in any way he can.



**Ginban Kaleidoscope** or Skating Rink Kaleidoscope was initially light novel series written by **Rei Kaibara** and illustrated by **Hiro Suzura**. There was also a manga adaptation by **Jun Hasegawa** that was serialized in **Margaret** and it also has an anime adaptation that was aired from October to December 2005. The anime adaptation is directed by **Shinji Takamatsu** and was shown in **TV Tokyo**.



Being an ice skater is hard, but try having a ghost friend! Be sure to check out **Ginban Kaleidoscope**!

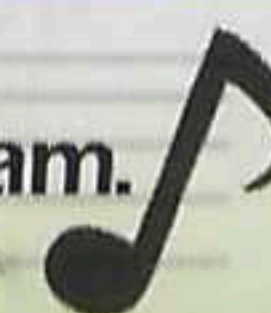


la corda d'oro

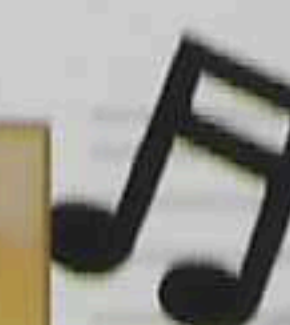
# Blue Sky



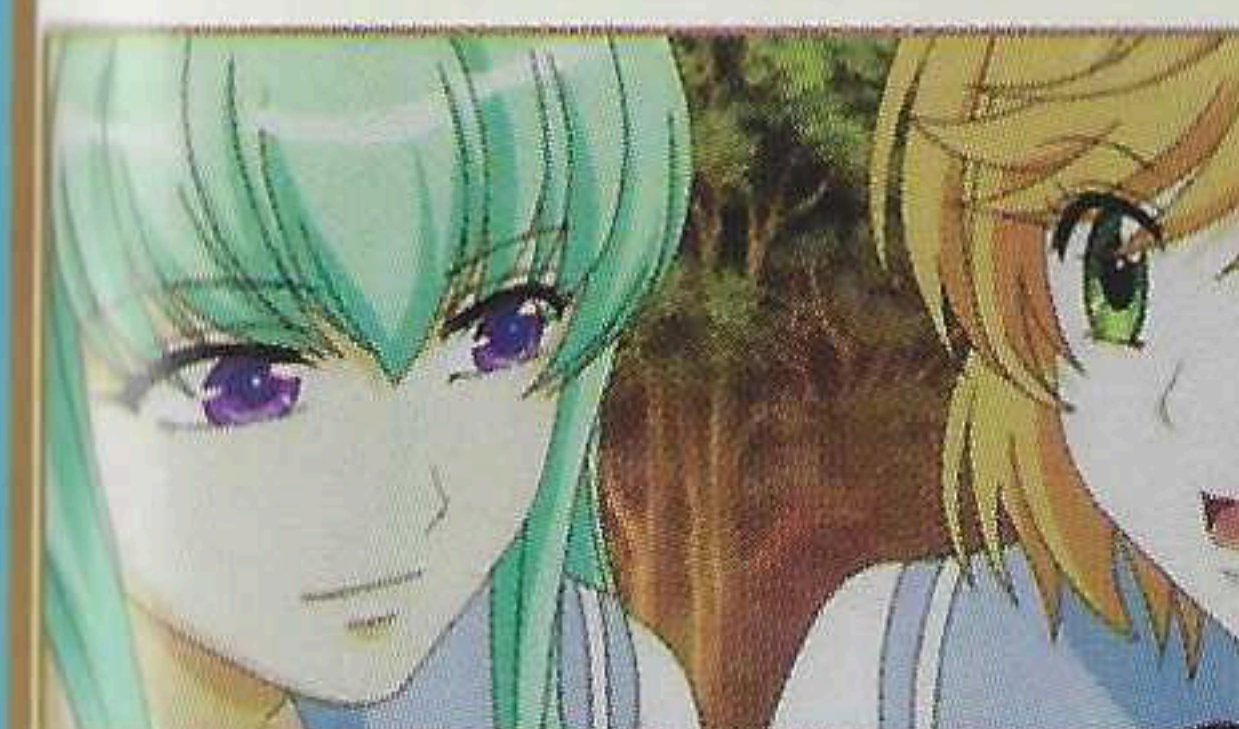
Music is said to bring people closer. For Kanade, music brings her closer to her dream.



Set eight years after the events of the previous **La Corda** series, **La Corda d'Oro Blue Sky** follows the new protagonist named **Kohinata Kanade**'s journey to reach her musical ambition in the prestigious school, **Seiso Academy**. She finds the orchestra club of the school and the club members; she encounters fellow musicians from different schools as they journey to strive for excellence in the chamber music segment of the national championships.



**La Corda d'Oro Blue Sky** is an anime adaptation of the game **Kin-iro no Corda 3** or **La Corda 3**. The series will feature new characters from the game and the returning characters from the previous series. **Ochi Koujin** returns as the director of this adaptation.



**La Corda** series is originally an otome game that was released back in 2003 as a part of the Neo-Romance of **Koei**. The first two games, **La Corda 1&2** also received their anime adaptations which are **La Corda d'Oro: Primo Passo** (2006) and **La Corda d'Oro: Secondo Passo** (2009) with their respective music releases.



So if you want to enjoy beautiful music along with great art and story, you might want to check this anime out!







## VISUAL NOVELS!



by philip

Manga, anime series and light novels are the kind of media that are popular to the otakus. But did you know that some manga and anime series are adapted from their original visual novels?

A visual novel is an interactive fiction game featuring mostly visual graphics, most often using anime-style art and accompanied by character voices (CV), Computer Graphics (CG) and to some, video footages. Mostly the stories in a visual novel are adventure games which incorporate problem solving, decision-making and player's interaction to the character type of story.

The main gameplay of a visual novel is to interact with the player through reading the text and listening to the character's voices. A typical visual novel user interface is having a text box and a picture of a character that's always on the player's view to give the feeling of "you're interacting to the character". Some novels feature a wall of text from top to bottom or simply a text box below depending on the developer's designed GUI.

Visual novels are also classified to different genres like drama, romance, eroge or erotic game, science fiction, nakige or depressing games and horror. Some popular visual novels got an anime adaptation and manga adaptation like the famous Clannad, Fate Stay Night, Kanon, Da Capo I, II and III. Key, a visual novel developer is known for making nakiges such as Clannad and Kanon. H2O ~footprints in the sand~ became popular not only in the visual novel but also in its anime adaptation as it retained the originality of the tragic story. H2O is known to be the second highest selling visual novel on 2006.



Date A Live



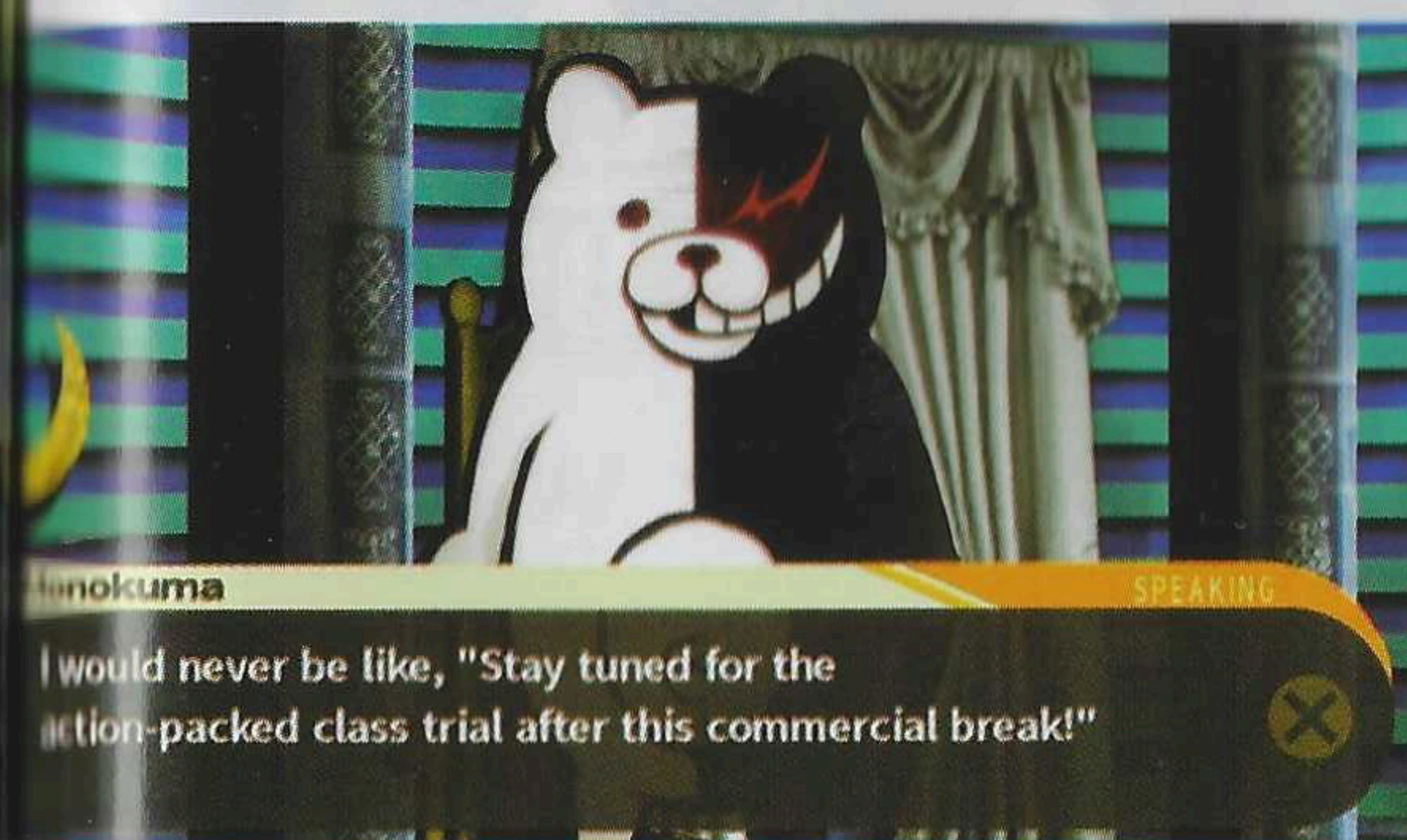
Corpse Party



Stein's Gate



Jooubachi no Oubou



Dangan Ronpa

Steins gate, A bridge to the starry skies and such got an anime adaptation and aired in recent years of 2012 and 2013. Though some popular VN were not made an anime or manga adaptations such as Hoshizora no memoria, Dracu-riot!, Twinkle Crusaders(venus embryo and passion star stream) and such.

Visual novels are often translated to English by some fans to be read worldwide, though not all fans can translate a visual novel. The translator must have the knowledge of Japanese to English language and is familiar on programming. Translating a visual novel is reprogramming the language text to be readable to non-Japanese speakers.

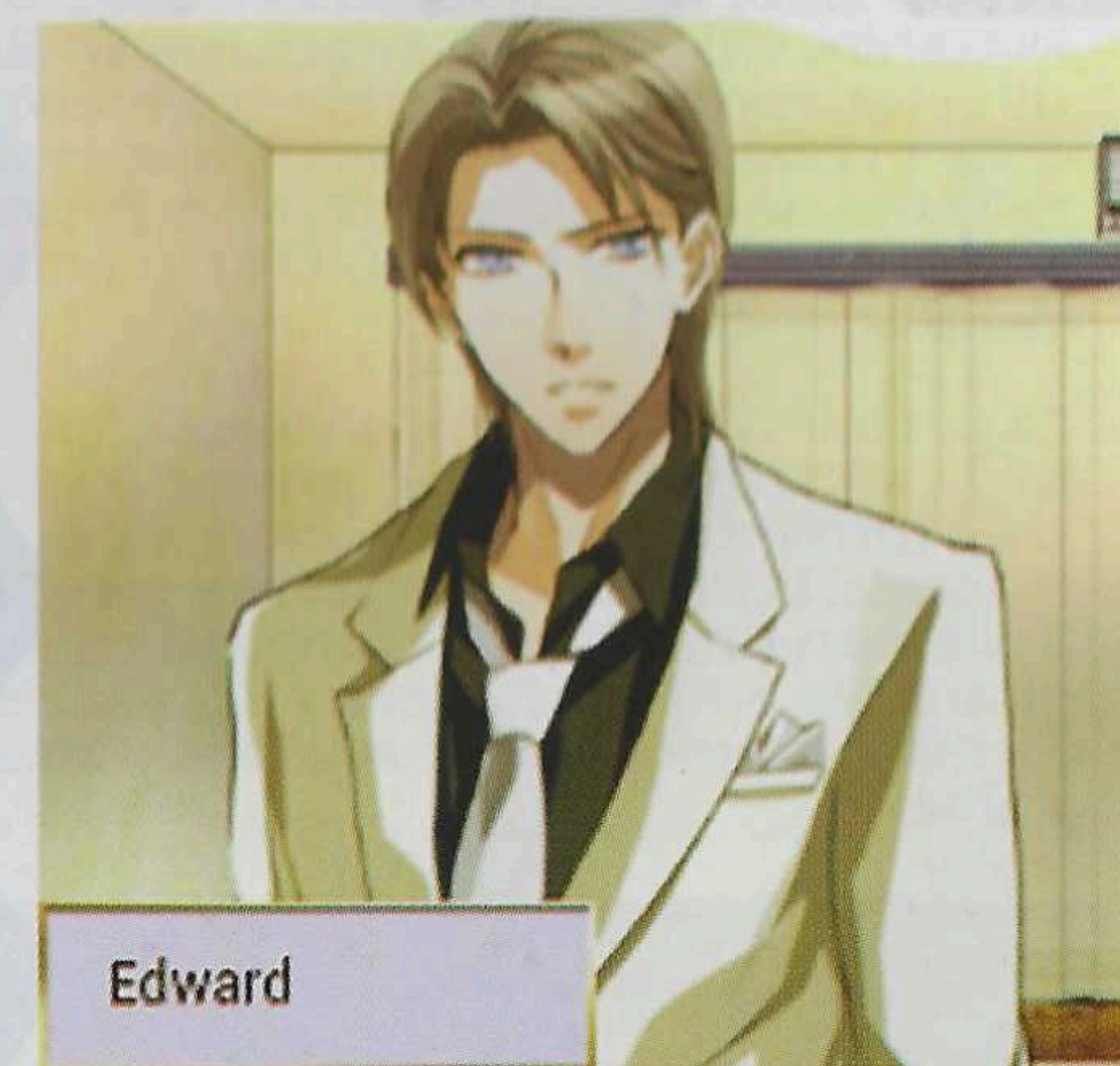
Visual novels are a story, anime, game all rolled into one. Rather than being simply the audience, you get to be part of the story and you'll also be able to read the different endings according to the decisions you've made.

Last year, Otaku Asia gave you a list of horror visual novels for Halloween. For this issue, we give you moe, kawaii and cute visual novels for you to play~

Enjoy!



If My Heart Had Wings



Edward

"...I wanted to get here sooner. I'm sorry."

TOP

Reload

Back

It's Our Secret







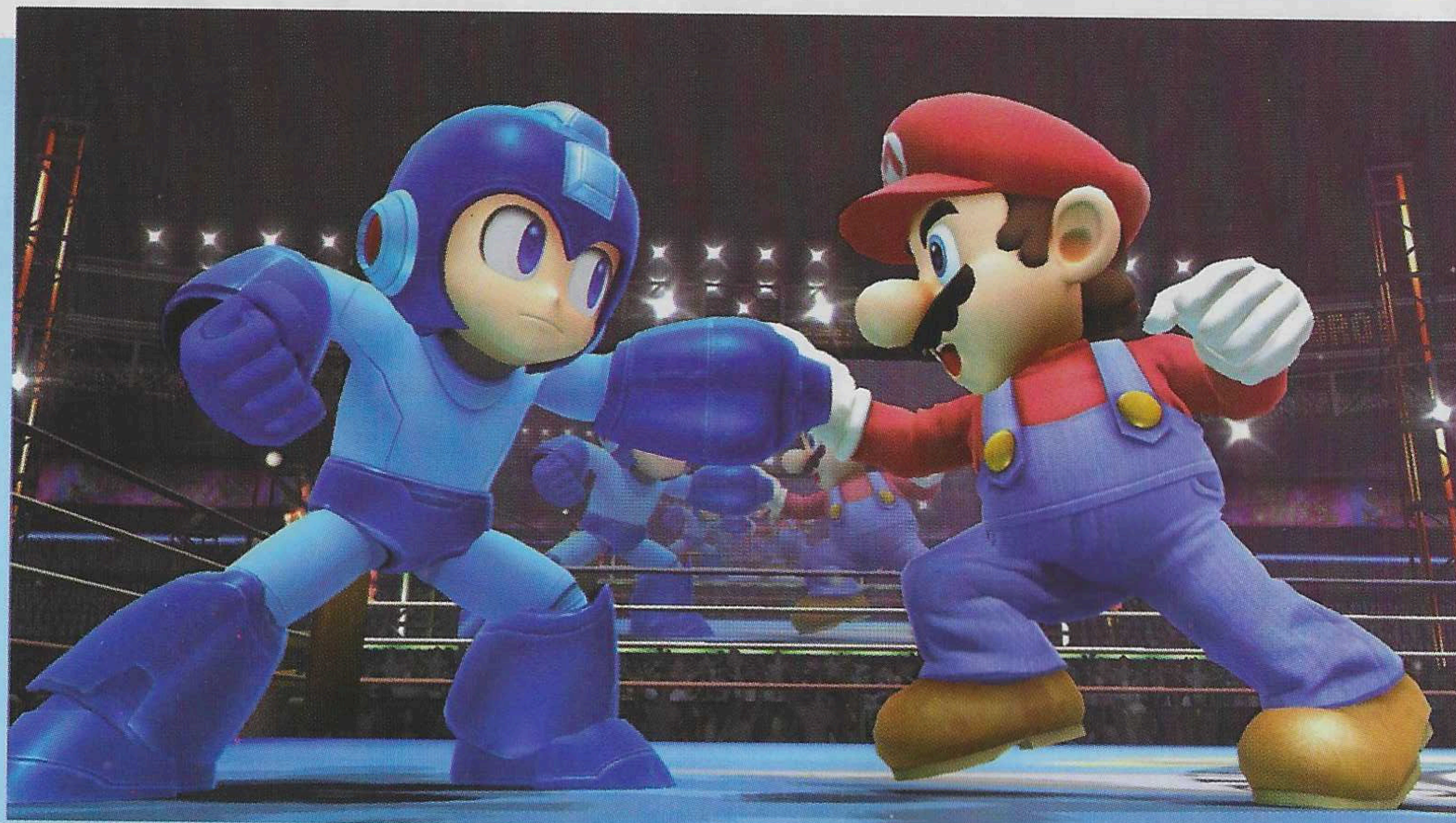
# GAMER'S ARENA

by Nathaniel

## MORE AND BETTER BROS

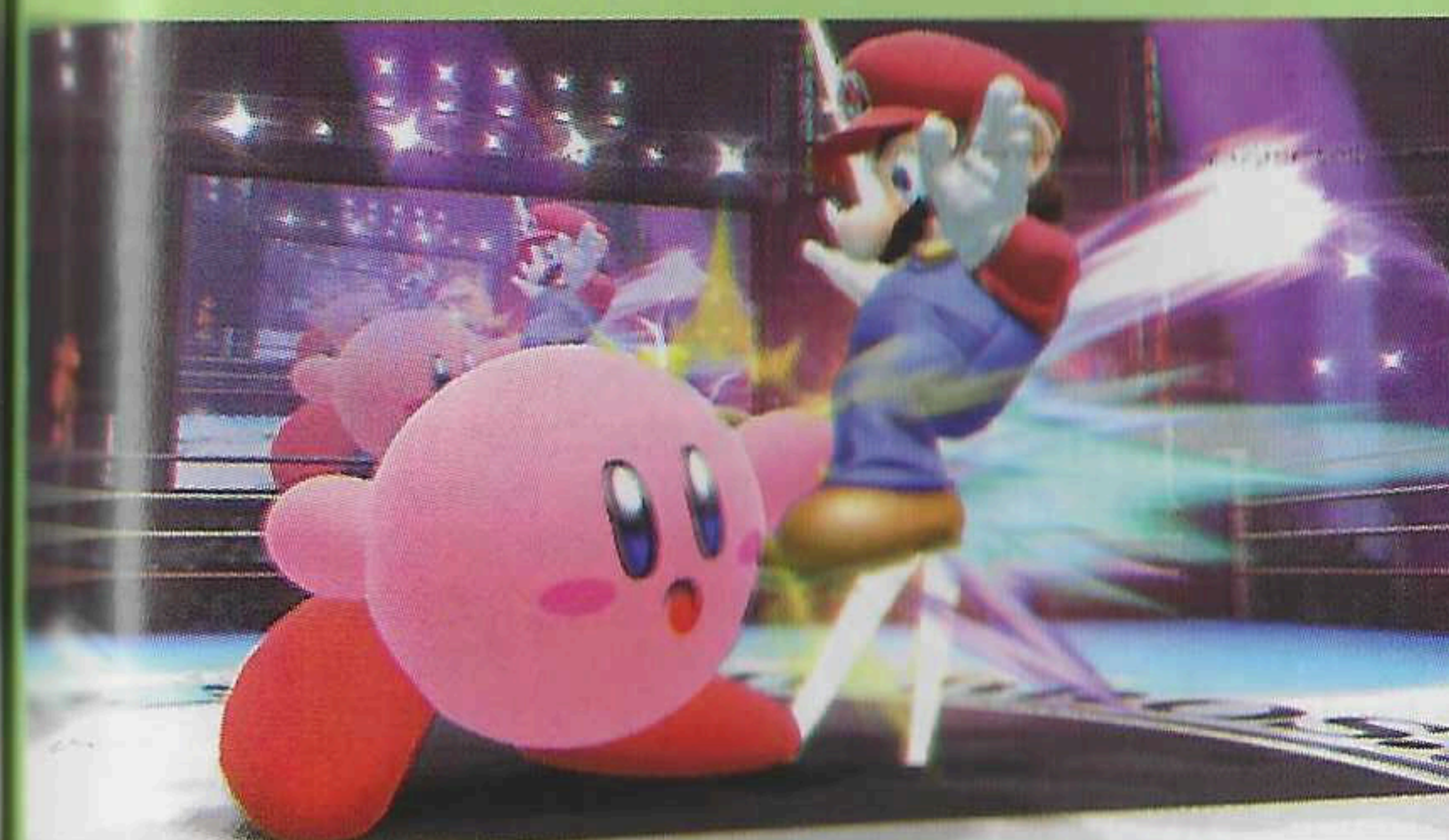
Nintendo will release a new fighting video game of our all-time favorite Super Smash Brothers for Nintendo 3DS and Wii U. Masahiro Sakurai, the Super Smash Bros. director announced during this news on a trailer released last April 8, Tuesday night that the new game will be release on 3DS and Wii U on the Q3 and Q4 (summer and winter) of 2014.

Expect new characters on Super Smash Bros. such as the new improved Samus that turn into Zero Suit Samus, and Princess Zelda who transforms into Sheik. Pokemon Charizard is coming back as a character and the Pokemon X and Y star Geninja would also be available into the game.



The both versions allows online play were the player can play with their friends or on random matches through Miiverse or Nintendo's social network. There are two types of online play, the "For Fun" mode in which the stage selection are random and the item mode is on and the "For Glory" mode which the item mode is off and all stats are recorded. Online privileges such as banning players for abandoning matches, self-destructing, cheating and improper conduct will be observed by Nintendo.

Nintendo didn't announce the specific date of the releases, as they will conduct another conference on June.



Let's expect that the new version retain the good qualities and gameplay of the recent Super Smash Bros. plus the new exciting characters and game modes. Make sure to check out the latest news and announcement about Super Smash Bros. on 3DS and Wii U.

### The growing list of characters!!

#### Newcomers:

Little Mac (Punch Out)  
Villager (Animal Crossing)  
Mega Man (Mega Man)  
Wii Fit Trainer (Wii Fit)  
Rosalina and Luma (Super Mario 3D World)

#### Characters:

##### Donkey Kong Universe:

Donkey Kong  
Diddy Kong

##### Fire Emblem Universe:

Marth

##### Kid Icarus Universe:

Pit

##### Kirby Universe:

Kirby  
King Dedede

##### Mario Universe:

Mario  
Bowser  
Luigi

##### Princess Peach

##### Metroud Universe:

Samua Aran  
Zero Suit Samus

##### Pikmin Universe:

Pikmin & Olimar

##### Pokemon Universe:

Picachu  
Lucario  
Charizard  
Greninja

##### Sonic Universe:

Sonic the Hedgehog

##### StarFox Universe:

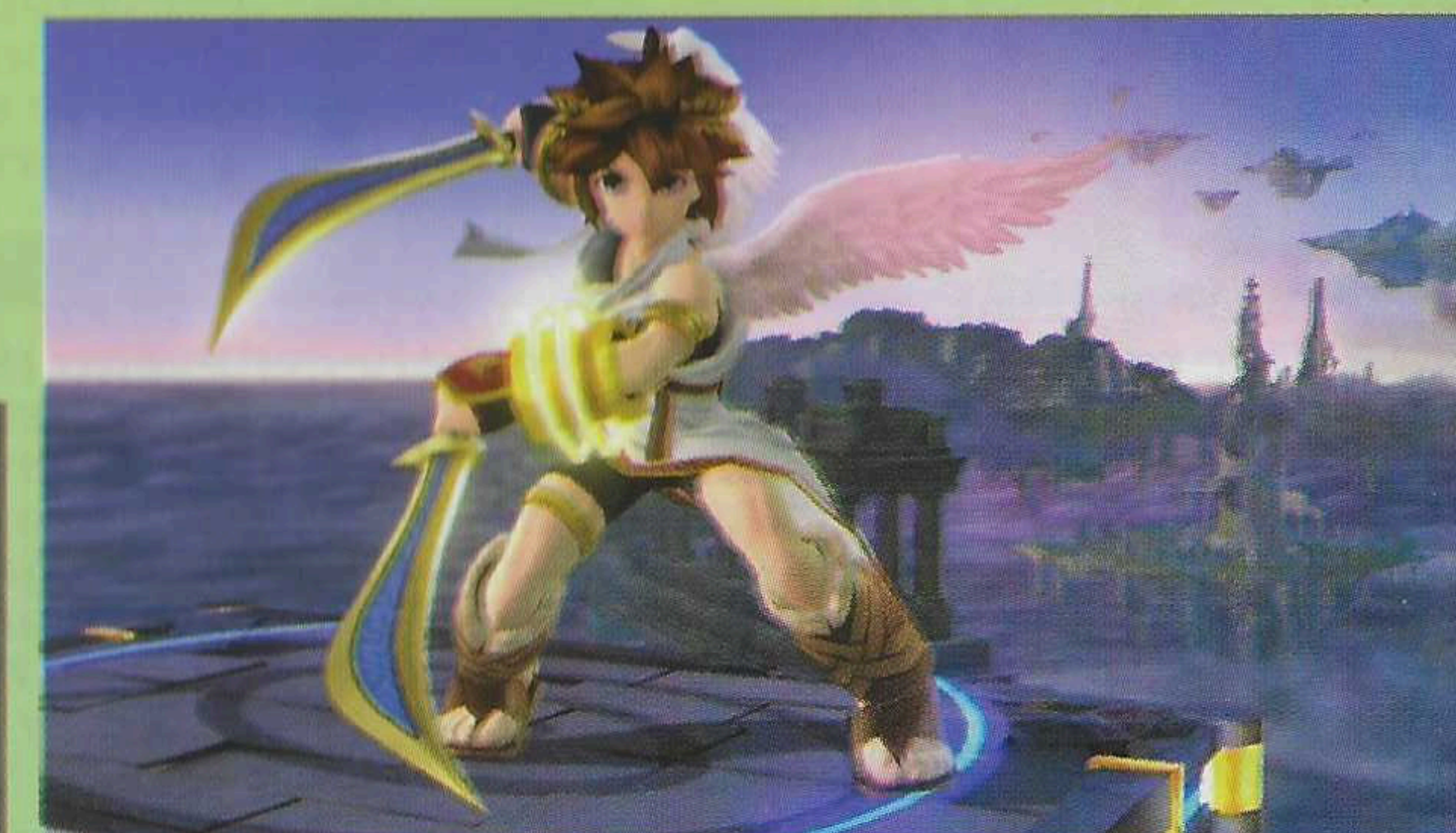
Fox McClud

##### The Legend of Zelda Universe:

Link  
Toon Link  
Zelda  
Sheik

##### Yoshi's Island Universe:

Yoshi





# twitch plays Pokémon



1d 18h 43m 36s

Zinnerzpt	up
Exilekyle	left
Xdgbadx	down
Williamse	left
Randdalf	down
Glowing or	right
Draydii	left
Bship202	up
Goawaylaur	down
Eliddb	left
Duroate	right
Anoreth	down
Dozzyb	right
Zeldafan45	down
Ldoosk	up



Greetings, fellow trainer.

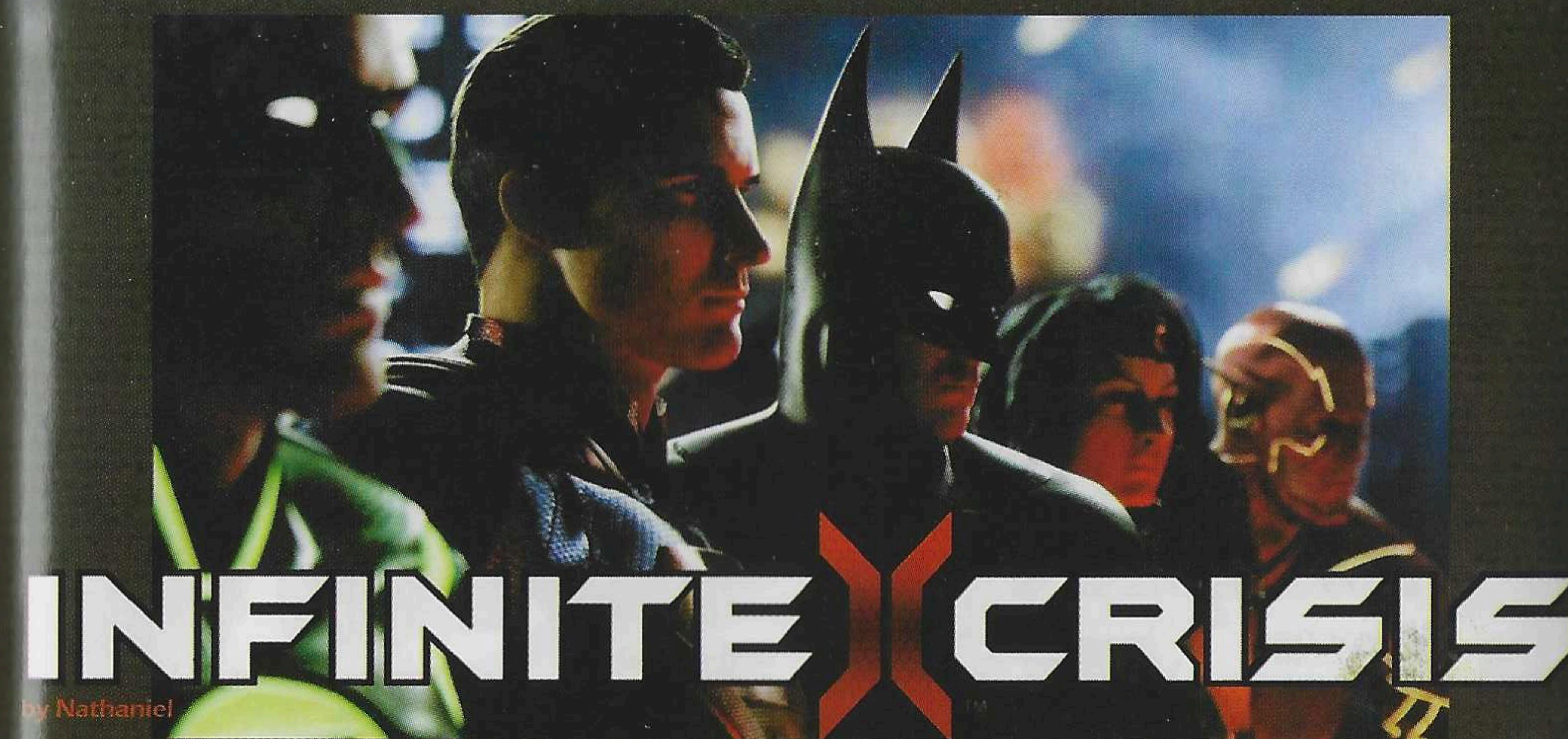
I know you want to be the best like no one ever was, so you traveled across the land and searched far and wide to catch and train all 719 Pokémon. Of course, you didn't stop there, because you also beat all the gyms, challenged the Elite Four, and became the champion in all the regions. Your exploits are nothing short of commendable, however, there is much more to be done. So, how would you like to go on an epic Pokémon adventure once again? This time around, you'll be with thousands of your fellow trainers. Oh no, this isn't an online version of Pokémon; you won't be interacting with them in-game. Here's the catch – all of you will be controlling one trainer. If you either don't get it or do not believe me, then prepare to get twitched with Twitch Plays Pokémon.



Twitch Plays Pokémon is both a game and a social experiment done by an anonymous Australian programmer. With the use of a hacked Pokémon Red Version game being streamed in the website twitch.tv, those who are watching the game can "play" by inputting commands on the chatbox. The trainer then obeys the inputted commands with the use of two modes, which can be voted on via chatbox – Anarchy, which makes the trainer obey all inputted commands; and Democracy, which makes the trainer obey the most inputted commands during a certain span of time. Sounds messy and difficult, right?

Well, it's actually doable. In fact, Pokémon Red, Crystal, and Emerald have already been done, and the streamer plans to continue with more recent versions as long as viewers show support to the stream.

Due to the unorthodox control scheme, events that would've either been illogical or near-impossible on a solo game have happened, giving each stream a reinterpretation of the original story, and ultimately its own lore. Because of this, the fanbase took notice and made memes and fanart that can only be understood by those who have watched and played the games. Although Red, Crystal, and Emerald versions have already been done and their lores have already been established, you can check Youtube and Twitch for the highlights so that you can relate and understand what an awesomely unique experience Twitch Plays Pokémon was.



# INFINITE CRISIS

by Nathaniel

Earth once again faces a crisis that threatens the existence of its multiverse. Heroes and villains from six different worlds are Earth's last hope against the imminent danger that pushed them on the brink of annihilation. Play as one of the iconic heroes and villains from the DC Multiverse, form a team and fight against other players in a battle that will decide the fate of the six worlds.

DC: Infinite Crisis is the newest addition to the multiplayer online battle arena (MOBA) genre based on the DC Universe. The game is developed by Turbine and published by Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment. Infinite Crisis first opened its doors for closed beta testing in May 8, 2013 and went into open beta on March 14 this year.

Infinite Crisis puts players in control of various characters from the DC Universe and gives them the chance to form a team full of heroes, villains, or a mix of both. Just like other MOBA games, the players' main objective is to destroy the core structure of the opposing team. The gameplay is also the same, but with new features such as interactive environmental objects that can be destroyed or used against enemies and a special utility skill called Stolen Powers. Both heroes and villains are referred as Champions and are categorized into six classes based on their skills and attributes: Assassin, Enforcer, Blaster, Marksman, Bruiser and Controller.

The six core universes in Infinite Crisis.

**Prime (Earth-0)** – The main universe and home to hundreds of heroes and villains. It is also the keystone upon which the Multiverse rests.

**Arcane (Earth-13)** – A faction of sorcerers called "The Shadow League" performed a ritual to extinguish the Sun with the intention of ruling over the world. The world's most powerful magicians decided to unite to set the Earth free from eternal night by reigniting the Sun. However, the arcane-made Sun altered life on Earth forever.

**Atomic (Earth-17)** – A mysterious object that crashed into Kansas became the catalyst of an all-out nuclear war between the United States and Soviet Union. The war and the nuclear aftermath vaporized 97% of life on Earth.

**Gaslight (Earth-19)** – Steam technology became the key to prosperity in the Age of Invention. Heroes and villains from this universe have begun to emerge, possessing new sources of power and chaos.

**Nightmare (Earth-43)** – An army of monsters led by an ancient power beyond human comprehension threatens to engulf the world with darkness. Some heroes have fallen and turned into monsters themselves. In order to stand against these creatures, the heroes banded together with the villains, setting aside their old rivalries.

**Mecha (Earth-44)** – There are no heroes existing in this universe until they were created by a group of scientists called "The Justice Consortium". Due to this Earth's advanced technology, these robots are able to think and feel, and has special powers. Now they are tasked to defend the Earth from the forces of evil.





Arme-chan  
Artist



GM Almadel  
Artist

Ren  
Artist



GM Yani  
Artist



Mikelle  
Writer

IT'S BEEN A YEAR!  
THANK YOU  
OTAFANS FOR  
BEING WITH  
US



GM Kanddy  
Editor in Chief



Nathaniel  
Writer

art by Xander Ramos



Lizzie  
Writer



Ann  
Writer

Pam  
Writer



Chelsea  
Artist



James  
Writer





# #THROWBACK

written by Lizzie

Do you know someone who comes home after school and will just lie down on the bed on kill time, watch anime, read manga or play video games and never do homework until minutes before the bell?

We could be talking about you or someone you know but this time it's about the lazy girl Konata Izumi of Lucky Star.

いまだ  
まだ



Though she may be lazy at all times, she is seen to be intelligent and is good in athletics. She is always with her friends, Tsukasa Hiragi, Kagami Hiiragi and Miyuki Takara. As the day progresses in school, they enjoy every moment with one another. Konata always get low grades and never shows an interest to other things, other than anime and manga. She thinks tha the true essence of spending a high school life is not only to study, but also to enjoy every memory of each school days and the story of every person she encounters with.

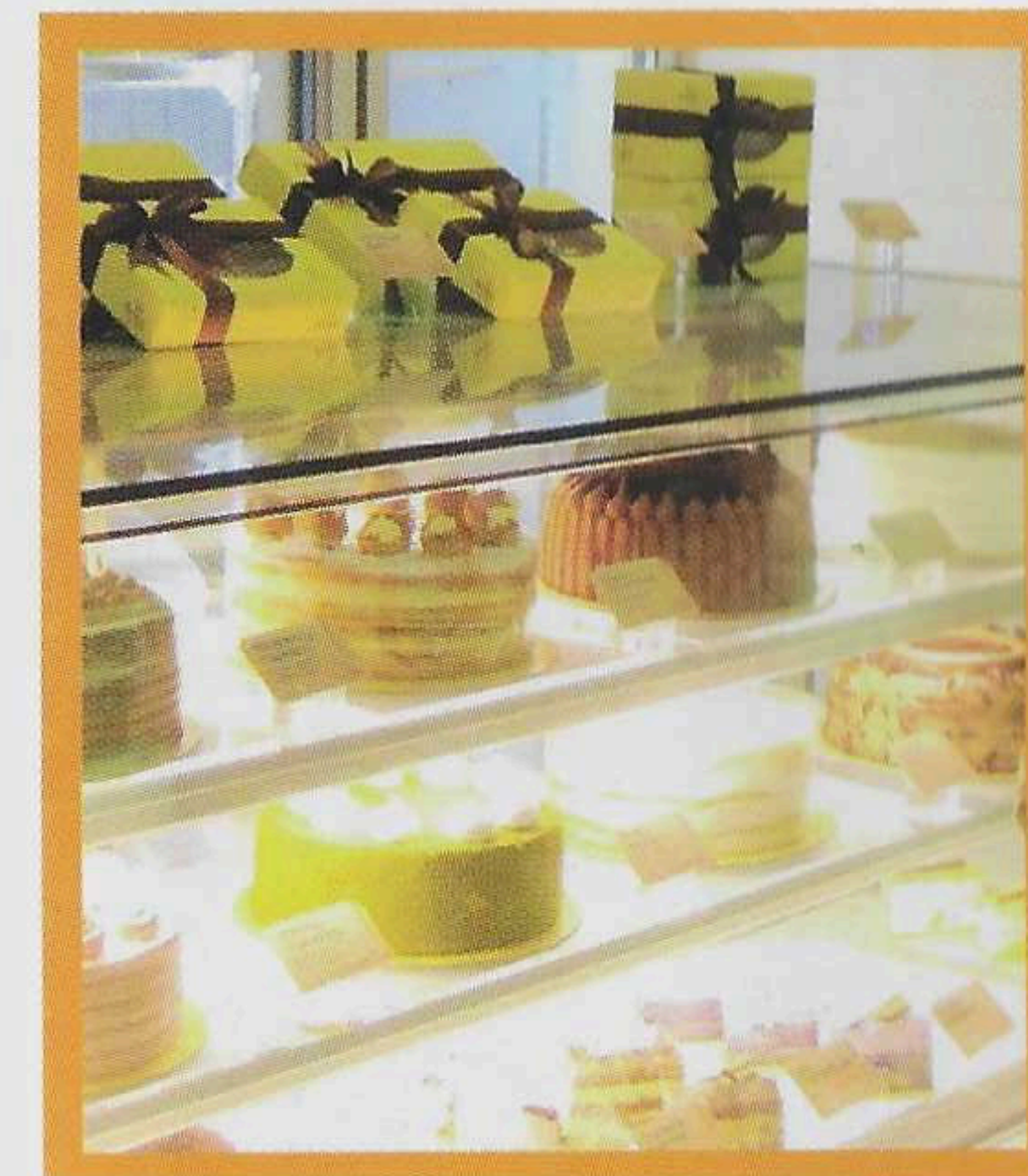
Lucky Star was produced by Kyoto Animation and aired between April 2007 and September 2007 with 24 episodes. On the near end of every episode, an additional segment was shown which has a more mature tone called the Lucky Channel. An OVA was aired on September 2008 featuring six separate stories around the cast. The opening theme is Motteke! Serafuku while Aruhi no Karaoke Bokkusu or One Day Karaoke Box is the ending theme.

The comedy series is very light and true to reality for some students. The character designs are cute and humorous. The art is simple and the objects and background are simply drawn. The comedic twist is successfully connected to the character's normal everyday life.

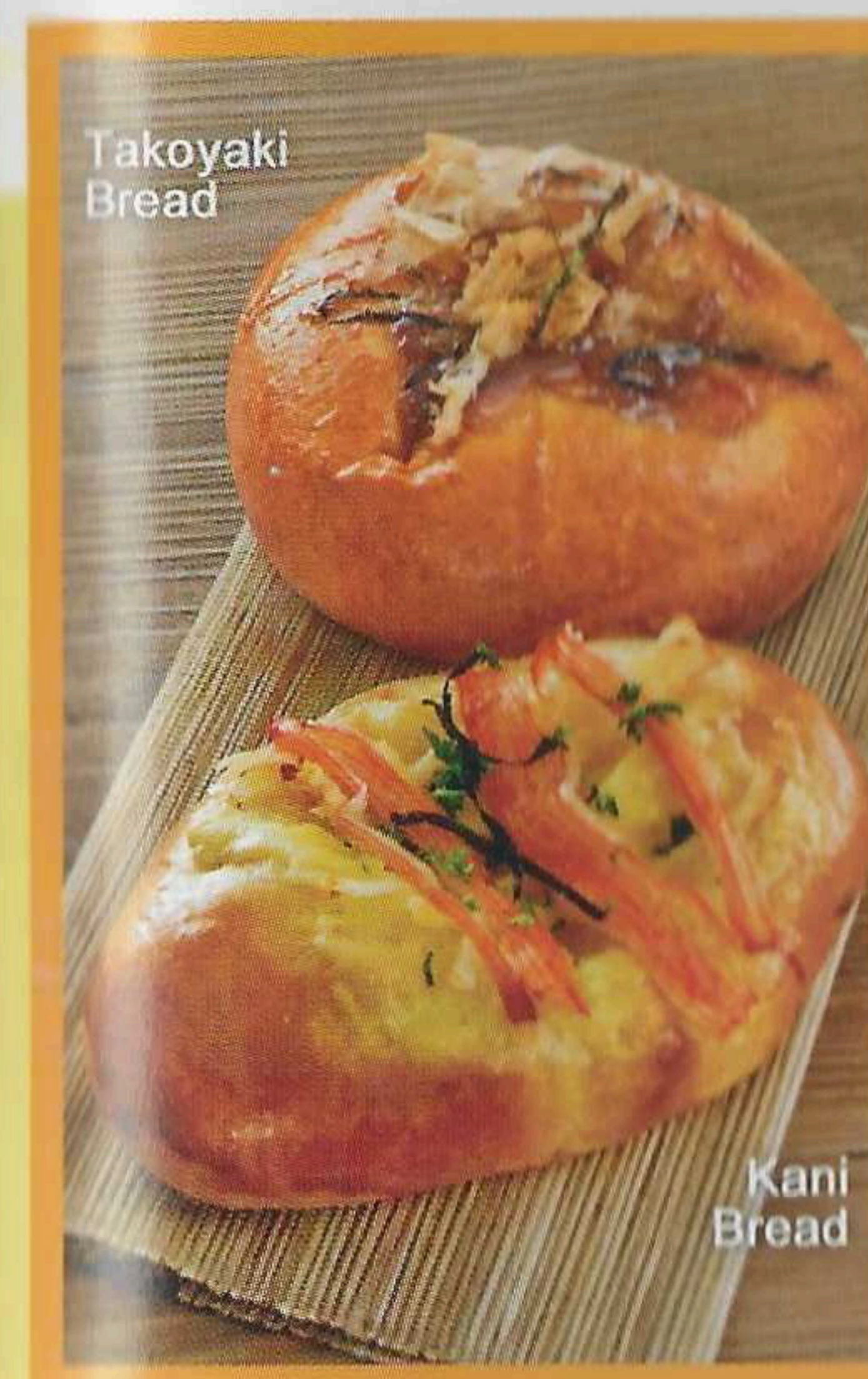
Lucky Star puts a smile and laughter to everyone. Make sure to check this out whenever you feel lazy!



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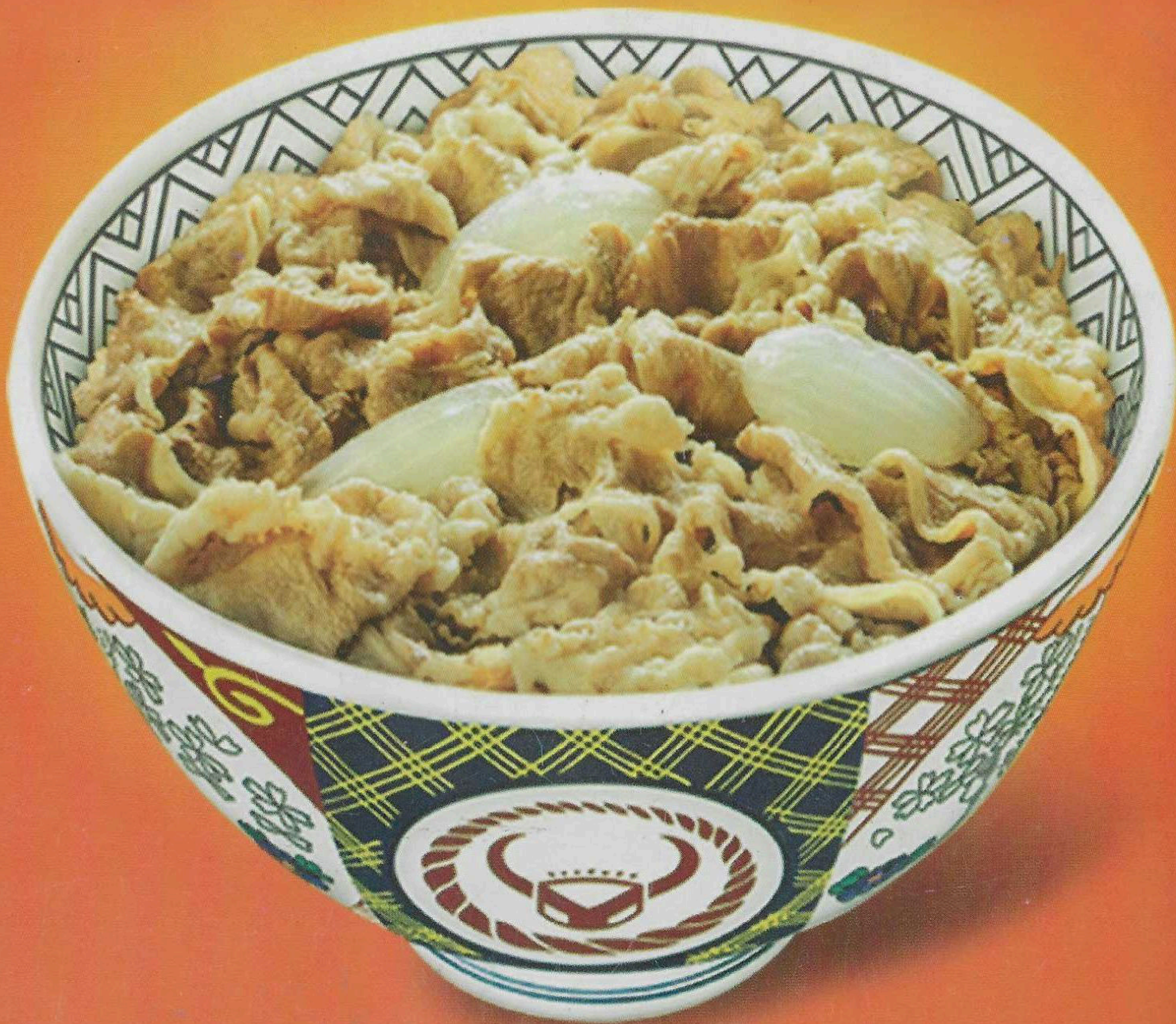


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